February 5th—11th, 1987, No. 6 75¢

THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

OUTBOARDS FOR 1987

★★

ORTH ORE VIEW

★★

AVEL: ORE EFISH

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RGY GS

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CUSTOM WRAPS

★★★

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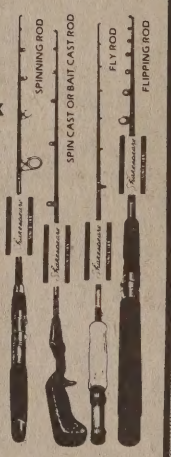

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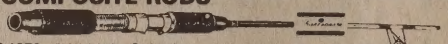

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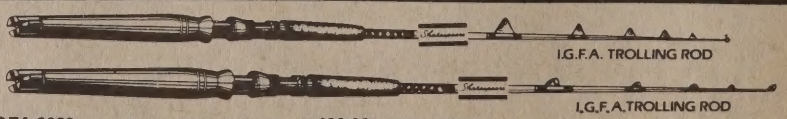

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THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

Volume 22, Number 6 February 5th, 1987

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Rich Mermon, Jr., found a husky baitcasting outfit the perfect tool to tame this big blue. Baitcasting tackle is enjoying a boom among salt and freshwater anglers alike. C. Boyd Pfeiffer tells how to get the most from these versatile outfits on page 34.

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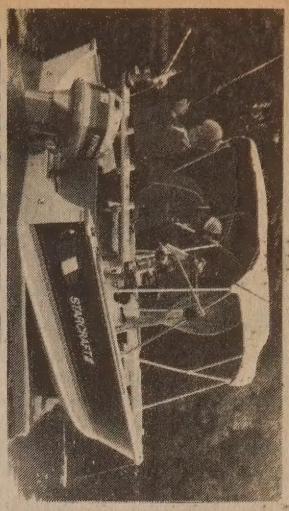

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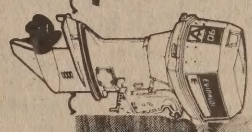

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PASS IT ON

LI TROUT UNLIMITED AUCTION AND USED TACKLE SALE

The Long Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold their 8th Annual equipment Auction and Used Tackle Sale on February 19th in the Auditorium of the St. Martin of Tours R.C. Church, in Bethpage, at the corner of Broadway and Central Avenue, at 7:30 PM.

Items of fishing and outdoor equipment will be offered. It's a great opportunity to find a "treasure" or pick up a bargain.

Items under $10 will be on sale "flea market style" between 7:30PM and 8PM. The higher priced items will be auctioned off starting at 8PM. Ten percent of the purchase price of each item sold will be donated to the chapter by the vendor with a maximum donation of $10 on any single item. There is no charge for a table.

You are invited to bring usable fishing tackle, fly tying tools and materials and other items of outdoor related equipment that you no longer seem to have a need for.

We often have a nice selection of rods (many bamboo), reels, nets and saltwater equipment, tackle of all sorts and description, supplies, camping gear, flies, etc.

IN MEMORY OF ED HARING

In our October 30th issue, Ed Haring tells the tale ("A Frightfully Good Time") of Scotty, a just deceased surf fisherman who is given a 24-hour pass by the presiding judge above, a fisherman in his own day, to visit Montauk, Lilco, West End and Breezy Point and wreak havoc on the fish hogs and slobs. In the finale, Scotty redeems a boat named "nellie Lee" whose present owner had transformed it into a scourge of both other boaters and surf fishermen.

Ed Haring died shortly before Christmas. He had battled Hodgkin's Disease for 50 years, alone, and never let it keep him from living or fishing. The surf might occasionally brim over his waders, but his cancer never dampened his spirits. Only as his body failed him in his last month did Ed make ready to join a company of fishermen above.

Ed was always a voice for the multitide of Fisherman readers who fish fairly, obey the laws, and toss some back. He might be found on any beach from Montauk to Breezy Point, never losing faith in what the next cast might bring.

Incidentally, there really was a "Nellie Lee"—Ed's boat of long ago. And in a sense, Ed's not really gone. His ashes are now on the waves and somehow I feel he'll convince the biggest fisherman of them all to let his spirit visit the beaches, at least for a few years, before he gets permanently assigned to a heavenly choir. As his story says, "Will Scotty return and be looking over your shoulder? Just to be on the safe side, I would double check my gear...should he decide to coax a blitz into your area."

Ed needs no more words from his nephew. In his own words, "Not wishing to hear eulogies or becoming a legend after his time, Scotty was off for Breezy Point." **James E. Tubman.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO MID-ISLAND SURF CLUB

The Gateway Striper Club wishes to congratulate the Mid-Island Surf Club on their record-breaking season, leading to their first place finish in the New York State Surf Fishing Contest. We all enjoyed a terrific competitive year and look forward to fishing with and competing against this fine club in the 1987 season.

WORLD FISHING AND OUTDOOR EXPOSITION AT SUFFERN, NY

The tenth annual World Fishing and Outdoor Exposition opens on February 25th at the Rockland Community College Field House in Suffern, New York. It will run through March 1st. The exposition has become a popular event for hunters and anglers because it is devoted strictly to displays and programs of interest to hunters and fishermen; there are no wrestling bears, alligators and similar carnival acts according to show director Paul Fuller.

It's become practically a national sportsmen's show, attracting enthusiasts from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the New England states as well as the state of New York, Fuller says. This will be the tenth anniversary year for the exposition.

The field house will be filled with fishing tackle displays, with all major manufacturers represented, plus hunting gear, guides, outfitters, lodges and travel exhibits, fishing boats and motors, taxidermists, custom rod makers, sportsmen's organizations and related displays. More major sporting equipment retailers than ever will be there, many with special show bargain prices, Fuller says.

In addition to all exhibits (and included in the price of admission) are Expo's daily seminars and clinics on hunting and fishing, featuring world-famous outdoorsmen and local experts to share their knowledge with the public.

Doors are open from 1PM to 10PM Wednesday through Friday; from 9:30AM to 8PM Saturday; and from 10AM to 7PM on Sunday. Adult admission is $5, with children under 12 at $2. Parking is free. The World

Fishing and Outdoor Exposition is easy to get to: just take Exit 14B (Airmont Road) off the N.Y. Thruway (I-87). It's the first exit west of the Garden State Parkway and is about 10 minute's drive from the Tappan Zee Bridge.

NEW SLATE FOR GATEWAY STRIPER CLUB

The new officers of the Gateway Striper Club are: President, John Marsillo; Vice President, Chuck Nemser; Treasurer, Jack Mendler; Recording Sec'y, Bill Spodak; Corr. Sec'y, John Hanson and Recorders Gene Levine and Jerry Collins.

FREE BASIC BOATING COURSES OFFERED

The Great South Bay Power Squadron, a member unit of the United States Power Squadrons, will conduct two free 10-week basic boating courses. One will be held in Brentwood and the other in North Babylon.

The Brentwood classes will be held from 8PM to 10PM every Tuesday evening starting February 24th in the Brentwood High School Sonderling Building, located on 5th Street. Registration will take place on February 11th and 12th, at the High School from 7:30PM to 9PM.

The North Babylon classes will be held in the North Babylon High School (yellow cafeteria) located on Deer Park Avenue. Classes will be held from 8PM to 10PM every Monday evening starting March 2nd. Registration will take place at the High School on February 24th and 25th, from 7:30 PM to 9 PM.

These courses are offered free; however, there will be a nominal charge for text and navigation material.

These basic boating courses wsill include U.S. Coast Guard Safety Regulations, rules of the road, aids to navigation, basic piloting and use of charts among many other topics.

Upon passing the final examination, participants will receive safe boating certificates, which many marine insurance carriers honor for a reduction in premiums.

For further information, please call 581-3598.

LONG ISLAND DECOY COLLECTOR'S SHOW

The carving of wooden waterfowl decoys is a unique American art. Long Island baymen carvers have had an important role in furthering the art and many of their carvings are valued at thousands of dollars each today and are important pieces in all representative decoy collections.

On Saturday, February 14th and Sunday, February 15th, the Long Island Decoy Collector's Association and the Museums of Stony Brook will hold their 10th Annual Decoy Show at the Ward Melville High School, on Old Town Road, Setauket, LI. Hours will be 10AM to 5PM on Saturday and 10AM to 4PM on Sunday.

More than $1 million worth of antique decoys and waterfowling collectibles and artifacts will be on exhibit. Most will be on sale. At 2PM on Sunday, there will be an auction of decoys.

Admission to the show is $2.50 per person, children under 12 may attend free of charge. There will be ample free parking and refreshments will be available.

NEW OIL CAN PACKAGE HELPS REDUCE WATERFRONT LITTER

OMC Parts and Accessories has begun packaging six-packs of its Evinrude and Johnson outboard lubricant with photodegradable plastic loop carriers. The new carriers, which replace regular plastic loop retainers, gradually break down when exposed to sunlight.

"Our new six-pack carriers virtually dissolve into dust after three to six months of exposure to sunlight," said Jim Kedley, marketing director of OMC Parts and Accessories. "We hope switching to photodegradable carriers can help keep waterfront areas free of litter."

The photodegradable carriers are manufactured by Hi-Cone, a division of Illinois Tool Works, Inc., of Itasca, Ill. According to Hi-Cone, ultraviolet energy from sunlight breaks down the plastic material's complex long-chain molecules into shorter chains. As the material's molecular chains are

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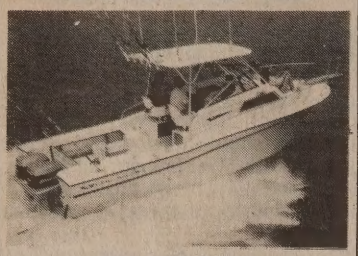
GRADY-WHITE



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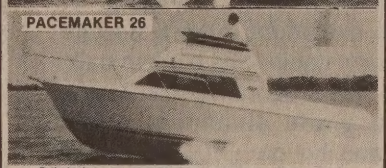

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broken, the action of wind and rain causes the carrier to crumble into polyethylene dust, spokespersons said. This method does not result in any toxic or harmful by-products or inhibit normal degradation in a landfill.

The amount of time required for the plastic carrier to degrade varies from one area of the country to another and also from season to season, according to Hi-Cone, depending on the amount and intensity of exposure to sunlight. The plastic becomes brittle and weak after as little as 30 days of average exposure.

Photodegradable carriers can be identified by a small diamond embossed on the carrier in the area adjacent to the finger hole.

"The use of these carriers in packaging Johnson and Evinrude lubricant does not mean that boaters should simply throw the empty piece of plastic on the ground or in the water," said Kedley. "We still encourage everyone to dispose of these rings in refuse containers. But do realize that some carriers will always end up loose in the environment, blown off boat decks or carelessly discarded. With our new photodegradable material, these loose carriers won't be littering the environment for years."

OMC began using the photodegradable carriers with 8 and 16 ounce cans of Johnson and Evinrude outboard lubricant packaged in September. That product should reach Johnson and Evinrude dealers in December and January.

NEW CRUISING COURSE ON EASTERN LONG ISLAND SOUND

A six-day, live aboard cruising course on Long Island Sound will join the already extensive course offerings of Annapolis Sailing School this summer.

Rick Franke, General Manager, made the announcement at the sailing school's headquarters in Annapolis today. "We will be operating from Preston's Wharf on Front Street in Greenport," Franke explained. "The North Fork of Long Island has long been one of the best kept cruising secrets in the Northeast. We hope to introduce a few New Yorkers to the joys of cruising right in their own back yard." The course will follow the same time tested teaching method made famous by the school as the "Annapolis Way" to learn to sail. "If you combine a great cruising experience with hands-on instruction in the basic arts of sailing and living aboard a well appointed, modern cruising yacht, you have a good idea of what the 'Annapolis Way' can offer novice cruising sailors," Franke concluded.

The course, identified as Course No. 236, begins every Sunday from May 24th through Labor Day. The fully provisioned course is offered at a tuition of $595 for graduates of prior Annapolis Sailing School courses and $665 for non-grads. Prices include all food, dockage fees and other expenses for the six-day live aboard course. Call the School toll free at 800-638-9192 for more information.

HOW BIG IS THAT FISH?

Sonar depth sounders for the fishing market are better today than ever in the history of the sport. Today's angler can choose from an assortment of flashers, graphs, LCRs or videos. But even with the highly sophisticated sonar units, can a fisherman actually tell the size of the fish by the signal on his display?

The answer to this question is "yes," we might be able to determine the size of the fish when all conditions are relevant. However, since most conditions are not relevant, we probably cannot.

By relevant conditions we mean that the boat speed is always exactly the same, the chart or display speed of the unit and the sensitivity setting are always exactly the same, and the fish are always at identical depths. Anyone who fishes knows that it is virtually impossible to experience the same conditions on every trip. Thus, determining the exact size of a fish by the mark it makes on the sonar display is in most cases impossible.

To fully explain this, we must first understand the cone angle of the transducer. The width of the cone varies depending upon the depth of the water being read. This varianc determines the size of the mark recorded on the dial. A five pound fish at a depth of five feet normally would not remain within the transducer signal as long as a five pound fish at a 20 foot depth. That's why we can expect the fish at the greater depth to give a more pronounced reading.

Increasing the sensitivity setting on most sonar units will expand the coverage of the transducer signal. Thus, a five pound fish at a 10 foot depth with minimum sensitivity would register a smaller target than the same fish with the sensitivity turned higher. And, of course, with the sensitivity increased, more fish will be found.

Perhaps the governing factor relating to target size is the speed of the boat. A fish passed over at idle speed will record a normal signal on the display. This can be a flash on the dial, a single pixel on the LCR, or a small inverted "V" on the chart. By decreasing the speed of the boat and allowing the boat to drift over the same fish, one experiences a much larger target because the fish has remained within the transducer cone angle for a longer period of time.

The strongest signal from a transducer is that which shoots straight down from the center. This imaginary signal is called the axis. A fish passed directly over will display a stronger signal than a fish located on either side of the axis signal. Again, conditions being relevant, a larger fish will certainly display a stronger or more intense signal than a smaller fish.

For the best interpretation of sonar targets, it is suggested that the boat speed, unit display speed, and sensitivity setting always remain cons-

tant. A trained eye can identify the larger fish—but catching them is just about the only sure-fire method of knowing the exact size!

For a free copy of Humminbird's "Trouble Shooting and Consumer Information Guide," write Techsonic Industries, 3 Humminbird Lane, Eufaula, Alabama 36027, or call Humminbird Customer Service toll free at 1-800-633-1468.

WATER GREMLIN SINKER TIP BOOKLET

Water Gremlin is offering fishermen their new Fishin' Sinker Tip Booklet, plus an assortment of sinkers, plus an embroidered Fishing Patch for $1.

The booklet is full of great tips on how to catch more fish using Water Gremlin Sinkers. Inquiries should be addressed to: Water Gremlin Co., 4370 Otter Lake Rd., White Bear Lake, MN 55110.

BABYLON TUNA CLUB ELECTS NEW SLATE FOR '87

The following officers for 1987 were elected at the Babylon Tuna Club's December meeting:

President, Ed Torkildsen; Vice President, Ray Seagren; Treasurer, George Huggler; Secretary, John Gremmo; Membership, Phil Scherer; Corr. Secretary, Fred Guardineer; and Sergeant at Arms, Charlie Zembrzycki.

The membership would like to thank last year's officers for the fine job they did in 1986.

Fisherpersons who like to fish and support their club may obtain application information by writing to: Babylon Tuna Club, Attn: Phil Scherer, P.O. Box 123, Babylon, NY 11702.

RUNAWAY APPOINTS DEALER

The Runaway Marine Corporation, Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey, has announced the appointment of Northeast Sport Fishing Corporation of Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey, as its exclusive dealer for New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware.

The Runaway Marine Corporation manufactures 36 foot sport fishing boats in two basic models: the Royal 36 which has a stand-up engine room, sleeps four with a dinette down and features a chill type fish box across the entire beam of the cockpit; the Sportsman 36 features the dinette up and a unique hydraulic hatch for easy access to the engine room. Both are twin engine models and come complete with generator, air conditioning and transom door as standard.

Both models are available with a variety of diesel engine options ranging from TAMD-61 Volvos to 3208TA Caterpillar engines. Literature, prices and specifications are available by writing to: Mr. Bruce Huppert, National Sales Manager, Runaway Marine Corporation, 101 Route 35 South, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742; (201) 295-8088.

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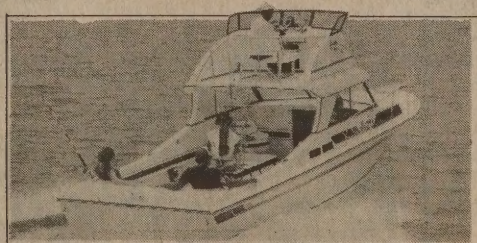

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Boats For Anglers

STARCRAFT TROLLER 16

by Jim White

The 16 foot Troller series from Starcraft Marine, was designed and developed by Great Lakes walleye fishermen, who were looking for a boat capable of handling big water and one which provided plenty of room for fighting fish.

Well, Starcraft really has outdone themselves on this one. It's quite unique, in that almost nothing like it exists.

The Troller 16 is built on the tried and true Pikemaster hull, which is 16' 5" long and has a beam of 75". The boat has a bow depth of 39 inches and actual inside freeboard is 22 inches—quite a lot for a boat this size.

This is truly the boat for the fisherman who wants to customize his own craft and not have a lot of unnecessary options, most of which he never uses, or are completely useless or get in the way of fishing.

I've always been a small boat nut! I like the versatility, mobility and economy of a small boat. After years in a bigger boat, I got tired of the hassles of trailering a big rig. Plus, it cost me fishing time.

Probably the best way to review this boat is to tell you what I did to mine. First, this is a tiller steering model. You probably could add a console if you wanted to, but I haven't seen the need as of yet.

The boat will handle up to 50 horsepower. I have a 40 hp Yamaha with oil injection. The boat flies to say the least, but handling is good and she tracks great in a chop.

It's equipped with a large transom splash well with drainage. The boat was designed for back trolling in the big lakes. Under the splash is a battery tray and a place where you can put a bilge pump. A 6 gallon gas tank fits under here and a drop screen snaps to the floor covering this area.

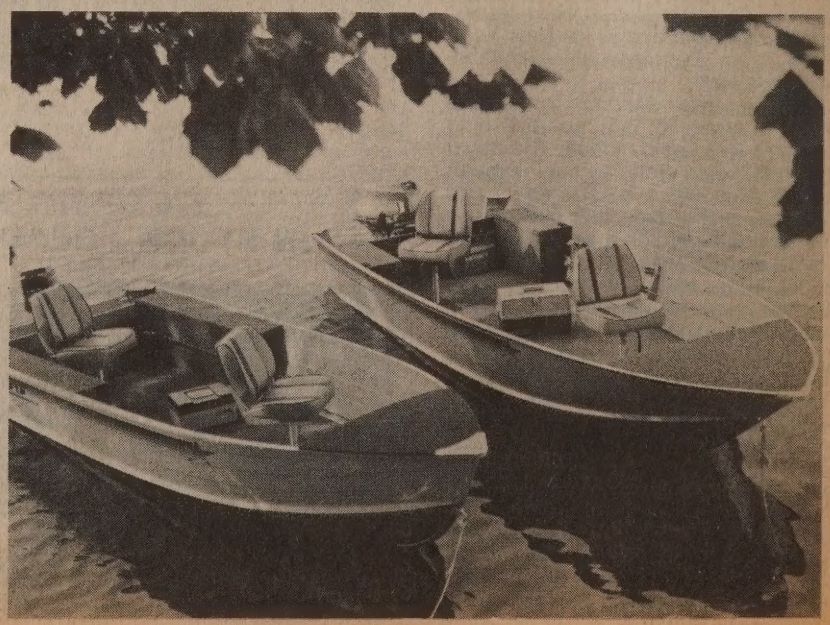
In the bow section, there's a large lockable storage compartment with room for loads of gear. Up front I put an anchor and rope, life jackets, emergency gear, rain gear, first aid kit and other items.

On top I put a MotorGuide 750 Brute trolling motor. This attaches to support beams underneath (inside) for just that purpose. It makes the installation very strong and eliminates bouncing like on other aluminum models without this feature.

On the flat inside surface of the bow enclosure, I have a small LCR, trolling motor plug-in, chart light, line holders, and small tackle tray. All are flush mounted except the tray.

Two large boxes are at the rear. One on each side. These are filled with flotation. However, the tops unscrew to let you inside to do some wiring and customizing if you'd like.

For the port side, I removed one



section of foam to put in a tach, amp meter, hour meter, 6 gang fuse box, flush mount temperature gauge and night light. I also cut a hole to fit a Lowrance X-3 LCG mounting it inside, over the hole is a plexiglass door which locks. After wiring, I replaced the flotation and put the top back in.

The top flat surface holds two Cannon downriggers, a Si-Tex Loran and VHF radio (Unimetrics portable). Rod holders were placed on the sides midway between the two seats for trolling and along the back. Using Fish-On rod holders, I was able to place 8 brackets in different areas, moving the rod holders to where I needed them at the time.

The boat comes equipped with two pedestal fishing chairs which are very comfortable. These can be placed in any desired position. Between the two chairs I placed an Igloo 151 qt. cooler and tied it down to cleats secured to the floor. This holds everything else I bring: cameras, food, clothes, tackle and other gear. This also gives me a third seat.

Six rod holders are standard equipment: three on the port side and three on the starboard. Two vertical rod holders were added to the stern area on each side enabling me to carry 10 rods in all.

With two fishermen, you won't believe the room that's left for fishing or the places you can use this boat.

At 600 lbs. it trailers anywhere and the Load-Rite, all roller trailer makes it a breeze to launch and retrieve. My son Justin can push her off into the water.

In one year it's been in tidal rivers, fishing for school bass, in the bay for flounder and tautog, out by the walls at Pt. Judith for fluke, on the inshore reefs at night for stripers and weakfish, bass fishing local lakes, trolling for trout and salmon up north and even launched off the Cape beaches with the aid of my Ramcharger.

The boat gives a dry, stable ride even in a heavy chop. It takes rough water very well and answers the helm immediately. With its baked-on epoxy finish, it'll last a long time looking like new with a minimum amount of maintenance.

It's really a go anywhere, do almost anything machine. And you needn't re-mortage the house for one. You spend more time fishing and less time paying.

If you like being a versatile fisherman like I do, then check one of these babies out. She'll add a whole new dimension to the word fishing.

* * *

SPECIFICATIONS

Length	16'5"
Beam	75"
Transom Height	Long Shaft
Dry Weight	625 pounds
Aluminum Bottom Gauge	.080
Maximum Horsepower	50

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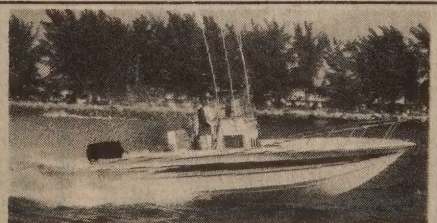
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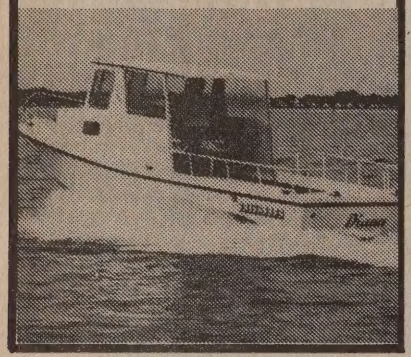

Product Review

RAYTHEON V-900

by Greg Venturo

It was not very long ago when a flasher type depth sounder was considered a luxury on a fishing boat. Then came graph recorders and now today, we have color video fishfinders of almost every shape, size and price to go along with the vast amount of fishing people who ply the waters seeking game fish from freshwater trout and salmon to coastal anglers looking for bluefish, bass and tunas.

Raytheon is no newcomer to the marine electronics field and their V-900 color fishfinder has been on the market for at least three years and in this fast-changing world of electronics that means a lot: the unit is reliable and has a track record under all types of fishing conditions and daily use.

The V-900 has an 8 inch diagonal screen for easy viewing along with a full eight color range. The eight color screen lets the user determine the density or strength of the returned signal by the different colors shown on the screen. The darker the color, the stronger the returned signal.

The V-900's depth ranges go from the shallowest waters using the 200 kHz model to the deepest 2500 foot depth ranges by using the 50 kHz model. The higher the transducer frequency, the shallower the range, but the better resolution. Most anglers wil find the 200 kHz machine and its 900 foot depth range to be the most efficient. Blue water fishermen who ply the canyon's edge might prefer the 75 or 50 kHz models.

The 200] kHz model comes with a 9 degree transducer while the 75 kHz has a 34 degree cone angle and the 50 kHz has a 35 degree cone angle. Two types of transducers are available: a bronze through-hull or a molded hard rubber through hull which is supposed to withstand hard knocks better. Few of us have ever had problems with the bronze type transducers, but if you are worried about hitting something, the rubber type may make you feel more at ease.

Operation is quite simple. The turn-on function is via a sealed toggle switch and the rest of the machine is

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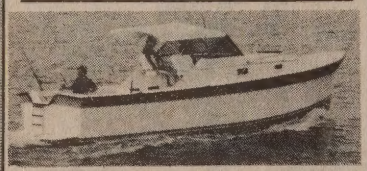

Designed and built as a full keeled fishing hull, the Alura 30 is definitely an offshore craft, capable of long cruises in open water with the power and stability to get you there and back in safety and comfort.
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keyboard entry. Initial turn-on range is 0 to 60 feet and ranges can be set in increments of 10 feet by depressing the desired depth setting on the keyboard and pushing the scale key.

Mid-water depth and bottom expansion is also built into this model and is accessed by the keyboard. The expansion feature is also in 10 foot increments and allows the operator to narrow down the depth being viewed. For instance, deep schooling blues can be read with more accuracy by reading only the bottom 30 feet of water in an area that may be 100 feet deep overall.

The rate of display has 9 speeds that will sweep the picture along at a crawl or at a fast clip. The speed is your choice by keyboard entry or leave it on automatic. The V-900 also has a freeze feature so you can stop the display to more closely examine the picture for awhile.

For all of the bottom fishermen out there, there is a white line feature capable of separating the sneakiest of bottom dwellers from the rocks. I've used my V-900 to mark cod, blackfish and sea bass with no trouble at all.

The V-900 has a bottom lock feature that reverses the range to read zero at the ocean floor and show at what levels the fish are sitting above the bottom. This is handy for trollers or for diamond jigging bluefishermen.

Although this machine has many automatic features there are those of us who still like to set the noise suppression, gain, brightness and white line ourselves. Yes, there are manual overrides located on the left side of the machine behind a hinged panel.

Raytheon is one of the few companies that has add-on options available for the V-900 series. Let's face it, some companies give us things we have to pay for whether we want them or not. The V-900 has three options: LCD depth readout; noise filters; and interference rejection module that will double check every signal so no false signals can get through. A dealer can fill you in on the extra cost of these options, or you can just leave them off if you want the "basic" unit which is still quite a sophisticated piece of electronics.

Additional features include a vertical event marker, variable illuminated control key pad panel, brightness control, depth scales in feet/meters/fathoms and a weather resistant housing.

Backing up the many features is a Raytheon 2-year warranty on parts and a one-year warranty on labor in case of the rare instance that service is ever needed.

The serious angler will appreciate the many features and ease of operation along with the abilty to discern readings in color for better catches.

* * *

Manufactured by: Raytheon Marine Company, 676 Island Pond Road, Manchester, NH 03103; (603) 668-1600.

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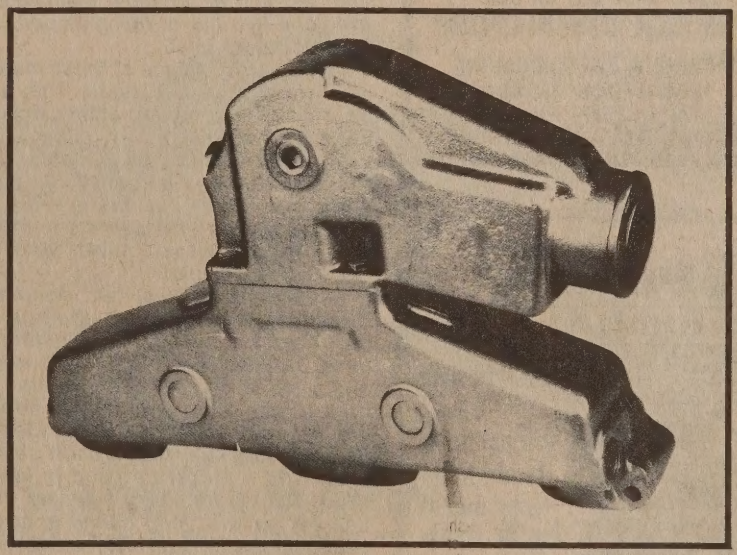

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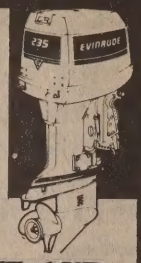

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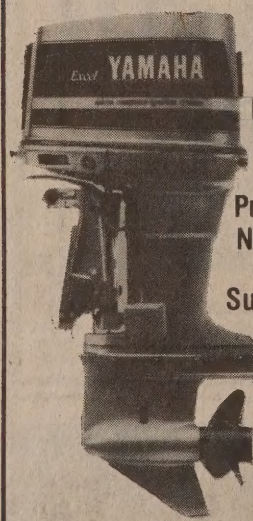

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The Tackle Doctor

by Russ Wilson

Dear Doc,

I would like you to clear up some questions I have about fishhooks. Each time I go fishing on one of the party boats, I get a different answer when I ask the mates or other anglers what kind of hook I should use for blackfish, fluke, sea bass, etc.

Is there a formula? Why does everyone have a different answer? Are they putting me on or do some of these jokers really believe the bull they are giving me when I ask them a question? *Bob Herbert.*

Dear Bob,

The mates not are "putting you on," they are giving yo their honest opinion and as you've already discovered, everyone has his or her own opinion of what works best.

I'd follow the advice of those mates who work on the party boats. They are on the water everyday and adapt to changing conditions as necessary. You may find a few poor mates, but they usually don't last too long once the skipper finds out they are giving lousy advice to his customers. Most of the mates we've known were as helpful as possible!

There is a formula, but like most everything in the fishing game, it is very flexible. Blackfish, for instance, have rubbery lips, large front teeth and a set of crusher teeth located in their throat. Long shank style hooks are as useless as snow in Florida for catching blackfish, but a short shank style with a moderate bend is ideal. When fishing for fluke, however, you can get by with long shank or short shank hooks provided they are not too large to hamper the action of your baits. Sea bass, whiting, ling and many other bottom fish will swallow a bait that is attached to a huge hook without thinking twice and you do not have to be a critical in hook selection when seeking these species.

I'd pick up a copy of Mustad Hook Company's "Salt Water Fishhooks" booklet and study it thoroughly. They offer some excellent samples of what hook style is best used for a specific species of fish. Mustad also carries a tremendous selection of hook models and styles in all sizes for most any salt or fresh water fishing situation you are likely to encounter.

Eagle Claw Hook Company (Denver, Colorado) also markets a very extensive line of hooks. Their catalog has all styles and models listed and most shore area bait and tackle shops have the more popular models in stock.

Not to muddy already dirtied waters, we also carry a lot of different model hooks when seeking one species of fish. Each has a particular application. For live bait fishing, we'll go with a light hook when the baits are small and tie on a larger, heavier hook when using big baits. That's why you are getting so many different answers and there is no easy answer to your particular questions for each and every situation demands a different approach.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I read in a recent newspaper column of yours that you broke a brand new fishing rod. You did not mention the brand of the rod you broke. I, too, broke one of the rods I received as a Christmas present and would like to know what you did about getting the broken rod replaced.

I tried to return the broken rod to the store where it was purchased by my wife, but they didn't want to hear anything about it. Then I took it to one of the local bait and tackle shops where I buy my tackle and bait. They, too, wanted no part of my troubles and literally told me to go somewhere else.

Now, I've got a $75, two piece of graphite and glass that I can't even use to make a wading staff. What do I do? *Thomas Ricks.*

Dear Thomas,

I did not mention the brand name of my broken rod and don't intend to because that would not be fair to the manufacturer. In this particular instance, I feel the rod snapped when I put too much pressure on it by grabbing it near the middle instead of at the butt. That's not the fault of the manufacturer, although it is definitely guaranteed under their lifetime warranty program.

You can't blame your local tackle shop owner for not wanting to listen to your troubles. He did not sell your wife the fishing rod and certainly did not make a dime on the transaction when she bought it elsewhere, so why should he replace it!

Some shops do replace broken merchandise and then ship it back to the manufacturer for a refund or replacement. But not all individually owned shops follow this practice because they must lay out the money for the tackle while awaiting replacement from the manufacturer. Nor do many of the larger department store type outlets. They simply follow the manufacturer's recommendations and have

the purchaser return broken material for refund or replacement.

You should follow the return procedure recommended by the manufacturer. Usually, they will provide an address where defective items may be returned. You will have to pay for postage. In the case of a broken fishing rod, you will also need some type of tube to ship the rod back to the company.

Most reputable companies (are there any that aren't reputable?) will offer a quick turnaround service and will generally replace the broken merchandise free of charge if the breakage is due to defective materials or workmanship.

I'd ship the rod via UPS so I have a receipt of the date when the package was shipped, just in case it never reaches its destination.

It's a hassle, but hopefully, you may never again break a fishing rod. The one that I broke was my first in more than 40 years of fishing fresh and salt waters. I hope it is the last for me and also for you.

* * *

Dear Doc,

In the past few years, I have turned from a casual fisherman, 10 to 15 times per year, to an avid fisherman fishing somewhere between 75 and 100 times a year. As I fish more, my need for equipment is forever rising. I now have about 15 fishing rods and it always seems like I need more.

Since I do a lot of "party boat" type fishing, I am thinking about switching my favorite boat pole from mono to dacron to get a quicker hook set. The pole I have in mind is a Kunnan medium heavy Boatmaster that is matched with a Penn 210 Level Wind reel. Do you think this is a good idea, or should I perhaps get another rod and reel for dacron. *John Mole.*

Dear John,

Your choice in a rod and reel combo is all right. The Penn 210 holds approximately 350 yards of 20 lb. test monofilament line, which means it will hold considerably more dacron which has a finer diameter. The 4 to 1 gear ratio also fits in for most bottom fishing situations.

Kunnan does market a fine line of fishing rods. The one you've chosen (model number was not included in your letter) I assume is the 7508H (rated for lines testing 20 to 35 lb.) or the 7502M (rated for 12 to 20 lb. test lines). Both rods measure 7 feet tip to butt and have 8 guides and are built on a one piece blank. I'd probably go with the 7508H since it is a heavier action rod than the 7502 and will allow you to muscle strong willed bottom fish up from the wrecks and rocky bottom waters. Either, however, is a good choice for many types of party boat fishing and each has the necessary length to keep you clear of tangles. You should find them more than adequate for catching most species of bottom fish and also when used for deep jigging blues.

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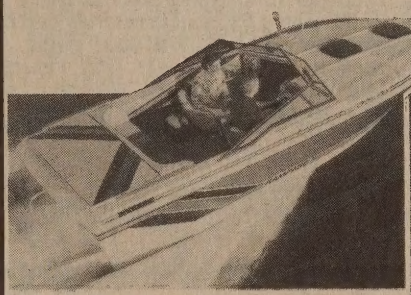

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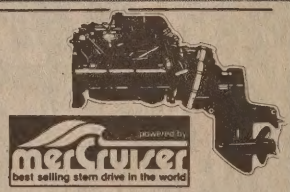

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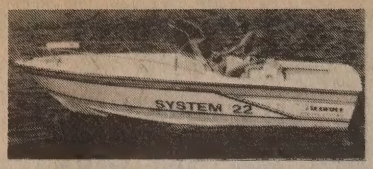

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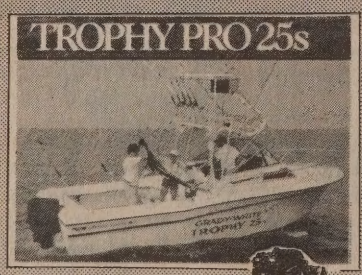

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Dock Lines

by Eric Burnley

Dear Eric,

I am having a hard time finding someone to insure my boat. I have a few traffic violations and the companies I talk with want an extra premium due to my driving record. What does driving a car have to do with operating a boat?

Vin Capano.

Dear Vin,

In the eyes of the insurance company, driving a car and operating a boat are one and the same thing. They feel if you are irresponsible in the way you drive, you will operate your boat in an irresponsible manner. I am certain you feel this is unfair, but that will not change the company's mind. You will have to pay the extra premium, but if you can keep your driving record clear the company may be willing to drop the surcharge in the future.

Shopping for boat insurance can be quite a problem. The first place to look is with the agent who insures your car and your home. He should be able to get you a reasonable rate if your boat is 25 feet or less and no more than five years old. Be aware that excessive horsepower on the stern will cause your insurance rate to move up faster than your boat's speed.

Items such as fire extinguisher, depth finders and radios may decrease your rate a bit. Successful completion of a Coast Guard Auxiliary or other safe boating course can also give you a lower rate. Having a captain's license could cause your rate to increase if you take passengers for hire.

Those who own boats over 25 feet in length or who have older boats will do better if they deal with a company that specializes in marine insurance. As an example, my boat is 20 years old and the company that insures my home and my car wanted $2,000 per year to cover my boat, but only after I had a marine survey. I contacted a marine insurance specialist, the Avon-Dixon Agency in Easton, Maryland, (301) 822-0506 and they were willing to insure the same boat for approximately $500 a year and all I had to do was send in a couple of photos along with the application. This particular company insures many of the old, wooden commercial fishing boats that operate in the Chesapeake Bay, so a 20 year old fiberglass boat was no problem.

The current problem with liability insurance will also cause some increases in boat coverage. Those who charter their boats will feel the brunt of this cost rise, but all of us are going

to pay more if the courts continue to award extraordinary amounts for personal liability claims.

Once you find a good insurance agent or company don't go jumping around to save a few bucks. Obviously if the price difference is substantial you must make a change, but good service is worth something.

Finally, don't forget to insure the accessories on your boat. We all carry fishing tackle, depth finders, radios and Lorans. These may add up into thousands of dollars and if they are not insured separately, they won't be covered in the event of loss.

* * *

Dear Eric,

Do you think it is important for fishermen to use nautical words to describe things on their boats? I find it confusing to say port, starboard, bow, stern, etc. *Ed Kuchuck.*

Dear Ed,

I do think that people who operate boats should use the proper nautical terms. I don't say this just to sound salty, but because there should be standardization when you communicate with other people in boats or on your own craft. For instance, if the Coast Guard has to tow you in they will not ask you to walk up to the pointy end of the boat and tie their rope on that little round thingy. They will tell you to take the line forward and make it fast to the bow cleat or anchor bit.

You don't have to know every nautical term in the book, but you should be familiar with some. Port (left as you face the bow), starboard (right as you face the bow), bow (pointy end in front part of boat), stern (usually square end of boat in the back where the motor may be), line (almost any piece of rope or string on a boat), anchor rode (line that is tied to the anchor) and bilge (the space below the deck where the bilge pump is found).

Most small boat owners don't have a galley (kitchen), head (bathroom), stateroom (bedroom), porthole (window) or crew's quarters (where the hired help sleeps).

When talking to other boat owners or when shopping for a new boat it's a good idea to know that the beam is how wide the boat is, the overall length is the measurement from the end of the bow to the stern, the waterline length is the measurement from where the bow enters the water to where the stern enters the water; freeboard is how much of the boat is out of the water and draft is how much of the boat is in the water. All these measurements are made with the boat at rest.

Some nautical terms we don't like to hear. Aground (when the draft of the boat exceeds the depth of the water); adrift (when the motor won't run and the anchor won't hold); sinking (when more water comes into the boat than can go out) and MAY DAY (nautical expression for the phrase HELP! HELP! I'M SINKING!).

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OUTBOARDS FOR 1987

Part Two—*by John Raguso*

This week, we will continue our coverage of the domestic outboard market. Let's see what Evinrude, Johnson and OMC Sea Drive have in store for this season.

Evinrude: The big news from this OMC company for '87 is counter-rotating outboards. They're the first of the American manufacturers to offer this desirable feature that's sure to be a big hit with the offshore clan that demands the safety of matched dual power plants. Counter-rotation models will be available initially on Evinrude 225 hp V6 and 275 p V8 loopers, both in 20 and 25 inch shaft lengths. Unlike foreign competitors, the Evinrude C-R system incorporates engines which run in opposite direction of each other, as opposed to power plants which have similar rotating power heads and reverse the movement in the gear case. According to Evinrude's Tom Anderson, "....our counter-rotation models will run in opposite or counterclockwise direction of the standard motors. This, in effect, neturalizes the propeller torque and gives smooth performance with less engine and boat vibration." A special starter is used to crank the engine in the opposite direction, and a modified throttle/spark linkage allows normal remote control inputs for speed and shift controls. A new water pump and gears are used along with a redesigned flywheel to provide cooling to the standard 35 amp alternator. Kits are also available to connect a counter-rotation model to an engine with power steering, giving the benefits of power steering to both installations.

The counter-rotation models will include standard Evinrude features such as Power Boost Cooling, a one-piece forged crankshaft for increased durability, fuel injection for quick starts, and power packs that limit the RPMs to reduce the chance of engine damage should the motor be run above the approved operating range.

Also new for '87 is a revised list of "SPL" models that offer Evinrude performance at a reduced price. Joining the 28 hp special is the new 48 horse SPL. Rated to give its power reading at the prop, it is available in a 20 inch shaft, remote electrical start model. It uses a new simplified remote control with single lever action and the ignition and emergency cut-off switches are dash mounted. It incorporates a loop-charged 44.99 cubic inch block for top performance and a fuel/oil mixture of 100:1 is recommended for economy and convenience. A 17 inch pitch prop and 6 gallon fuel tank complete the package as standard issue. Rounding out the new SPL series for 1987 is an 88 SPL based on OMC's proven 99.6 cubic inch V4 block. Available in a 20 inch shaft, manual trim format, it requires a 50:1 fuel/oil ratio. All three models qualify for the OMC 1+2 extended warranty plan.

Rounding out the yearlings for Evinrude's 77th season are the Excel 4 and 2.5 hp outboards. Both models feature a new removable one gallon piggy-back fuel tank that is located around the swivel bracket and below the fully enclosed powerheads. They also incorporate a 5.29 cubic inch twin cylinder block for smooth running with less vibration than single cylinder models.

While the popular recreational lineup accounts for the majority of models, Evinrude offers a complete selection of Scout electric trolling motors, Yachtwin sailboat auxiliary motors, the Super Series of commercial grade outboards, two racing models and the SPL series. There are a total of 104 different models in 33 horsepower categories for 1987 and all outboards are designed to run on unleaded fuels with a pump posted octane rating of 86 or above. The '87 model year also introduces fuel components that are resistant to the effects of ethanol and methanol additives to gasoline.

Johnson: Like its sister organization in the OMC family (Evinrude), the Johnson folks have introduced counter-rotating outboards for 1987. Accordinjg to Johnson's Michael Potter, this new feature produces "torque neutralizing propulsion," and is available with either their loop-charged 275 hp V8 or 225 hp V6 outboards. Like the Evinrude C-R system, the Johnson's reverse the engine's rotation at the powerhead to produce a

A Wellcraft 2800 Coastal, powered by a pair of new 2.7 liter 225 hp loop-charged OMC Sea Drives, heads for the bluewater.

mirror imaged motor that spins in a counter-clockwise direction.

The 165 cubic inch V6 225 and 200 hp loopers have improved sound insulation for 87 and they continue to feature "lost foam," cast-in-place water, exhaust and intake passages which eliminate many powerhead seals and gaskets.

Returning for this season are the proven cross-charged V6s in 175, 150 and high performance GT 150 hp configurations. For 1987, all Johnson V6 outboards feature a new gear case with a wider anti-ventilation plate for improved boat planing characteristics. A second sacrificial zinc anode has been added to the stern bracket to replace one removed from the exhaust housing, thus providing a more effective, in-the-water location. For maximum electrical accessory capacity, Johnson continues to offer a 35 amp alternator on all models except the standard 150, which uses the 3/9 unit.

Like its sister company, Johnson has the same line-up of economical SPL models in 28, 48 and 88 hp for those who want top performance at a reduced price. However, unlike Evinrude, the Johnson folks offer a stable of special APBA class racing motors. They make a 75 hp "E" class mill, a 45 hp "SS" class motor and a 15 hp "A" class outboard.

Also new for '87 are the mini two cylinder 4 and 2.5 hp engines that give new performance to this class of power plants that were formerly dominated by one cylinder blocks. There are many other refinements permeating the latest Johnson line-up, but these are the majors that you should be aware of if you're seriously in the market for some new power this year. All Johnson outboards are designed to run on any 86 octane regular or unleaded gasoline with up to 10 percent maximum alcohol volume. Of course, Johnson outboards feature the extended OMC 1 + 2 warranty plan.

OMC Sea Drive: For 1987, OMC Sea Drive introduces loop-charged power for the "full transom" crowd. The new models include a 140 hp 1.8 liter V4, a 225 hp 2.7 liter V6 and a 275 hp 3.6 liter V8. These newcomers join the proven cross-charged 2.6 liter V6 and 1.6 liter V4 designs which have been retained.

The latest Sea Drives have gotten a fresh look with a bold new charcoal and silver gray styling. The 2.7 liter V6 and the 3.6 liter V8 also feature OMC's exclusive power assisted hydraulic steering as standard equipment. This belt-driven, automotive type system offers the ease of fingertip helm control at all speeds.

According to Marketing Manager Charles Plueddeman, OMC Sea Drive is much more than an outboard motor on a bracket. From its introduction in 1981, OMC Sea Drive was designed and engineered to be the ultimate offshore fishing power system. Installed by boat manufacturers on craft designed specifically for the Sea Drive units, OMC Sea Drive is a totally integrated, two-cycle marine power system engineered for full-transom, outside-the-boat mounting. A high pivot point allows the entire drive to be tilted completely out of the water in most installations. Al hydraulic cylinders for trim/tilt steering are concealed within the mounting assembly, along with supply and control lines for steering, electric and fuel systems. All connections for those lines are made inside the transom, assuring watertight seals and fittings. Finally, OMC Sea Drive was designed to hang out with comfort in rough water and following seas. Air intake vents are baffled to direct water away from the power head and a unique siphon pump clears water from the engine pan.

All OMC Sea Drives are equipped with VRO variable ratio oil metering, which uses engine pulses to meter the gas/oil ratio from about 50:1 at high speeds to approximately 150:1 at idle. New on the VRO system for 1987 is a warning horn that sounds when no oil is moving to the pump, even if the reservoir has an adequate supply.

Next week we'll take a look at the offerings from the land of the Rising Sun, so be sure to check back to find out how the competition from the Far East is responding to the dynamic improvements offered by the American outboard manufacturers.

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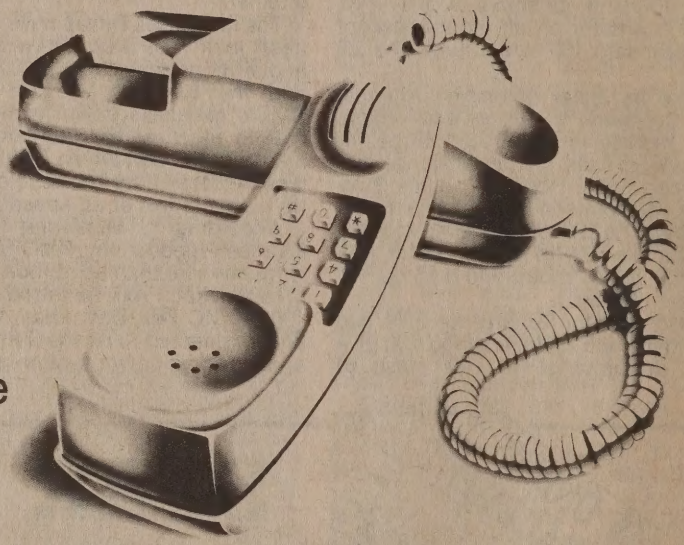

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FLASHBACK 1986:

LONG ISLAND SOUND AND NORTH FORK

by Martin Garrell

Summaries of seasons past make for a lot of head-scratching. What do you do if personal logs indicate good days on species for which the overall picture was poor or if diaries show disaster when those species seemed to be abundant? We try to factor in our own experience and summarize as accurately as we can; that's all we can do!

The 1986 season had its good points and its bad ones on the Sound and out on the North Fork. Bluefish in abundance highlighted the year for almost all anglers everywhere. There were harbor slammers, widespread choppers and mixed sizes along the beaches with cut bait producing best results over the long haul. Accompanying the blues were stripers and, for a change, the bass fishery featured numbers. Apparently the removal of commercial pressure and the eastward movement of Hudson bass have brought back good times, except, of course, that it was strictly a catch and release fishery, thanks to DEC regs for 1986. The logic behind not being able to keep a single legal bass for the table escaped the majority of disgruntled sports anglers along the Sound though the politics was quite understandable.

If you liked bottom fishing you probably found consistent porgy fishing from west to east. The numbers of true jumbos on eastern grounds was down, but catches of mixed sizes with many mediums were "the best in the last four years," according to Dave Brennan, head of the North Fork Partyboat Association. Fluke fishing looked good from Eaton's west, but it was mediocre-to-poor out east; the same pattern held for winter flounder. In fact, serious questions must be asked

(Continued on next page.)

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about the impact of surf clamming on the spring flounder fishing and about the bottom disturbance caused by trawling in the zones around Gardiner's Island.

The highly touted eastern tautog fishery began to show the effects of constant pressure on the largest bulldogs. Choice areas were either "fished out" or were slow to recover between hammerings. After early November, precisely when fishing should have peaked in the Orient-New London zone, the larger party boats logged too many poor days. The Port Jefferson area and the Middle Grounds had the same problem to a lesser degree.

The saddest shock of all was the critical condition of Little and Great Peconic Bays. With shellfish larval stages completely gone from those ecosystems due to the algal brown tide, with waters usually turbid after mid-May and with detritus from cycling nutrients and algae sifting across the bay bottoms, all fisheries fell off dramatically. There were occasional spurts of life around Robin's Island and South Ferry early and late in the season, but that was all; flushing of the bays and a reprieve from the brown tide cycle could turn the situation around in 1987.

March: The start of the flounder season was slow everywhere and spring turnover at 39 degrees did'nt occur until the middle of the month in most zones. Even City Island craft like the Apache had to work hard to pull a dozen flatties per fare from 30 feet of water. At mid-month the first catch of Peconic flounder had a 2½ lb. beauty for Carl Hansen at Captain Marty's. Dosoris, Pryble and Morgan's were in reports from Glen Cove Sport Shop by month's end while Lloyds and Duck Island Harbor were frequently mentioned by Bowman's and Four Winds.

April: The bays went dead after catches of Robin's Island and South Ferry flounder in early and mid-April. The Lady Reelers aboard the Hawkeye and Frank Ingargiola's My Yacht II had the best catches of the month in the Shoreham-Rocky Point areas. Surface waters in the western Sound warmed into the low 50s by the third April week and reports from John's Gun and Jack's Bait were outstanding at that time. A few fish to 2½ lbs. were taken around Shoreham. Roy Cash's flounder season on the Port Jeff Ace peaked at month's end and there were some very big fish in the outer waters. Wayne Poillon had a 4-2 snowshoe and Fred Mildner had a 4-8 on worms near Roanoke. Keith Wilkinson weighed a pair at 2-8 and 3-0 at the A.P. White Bait Shop.

May: The first pool winning tautog with heft showed up on the showed up on the party boats early in this month. Breezy weather made for tough flatfishing, but there were still some large fish around. Lorry Mangan had a 3-14 off the Northville Pipe; Dave Brennan and Larry Porter on the Peconic Star and Brand X had consistent fishing for large flounder off Gardiner's at mid-month. The Mattituck Fishing Station registered good spring tautog action for the Gregoroses and Violas. Fish from 3 to 11 lbs. were duly weighed and the Captain Bob also got in on the action with Rob St. Louis' 9-12 bulldog. Blues were showing in the western Sound by the end of the month; the score run up by John Palmieri at John's Gun was an indication of a good summer ahead.

The annual Riverhead Sportsmen's weakfish tournament still found 190 anglers entering 32 fish for prizes with Tim Kelvas' 15.6 topping the list. Night weakfishing was a bust for the party boats but by-catches of blues saved many trips. Also Dick Nemschick had a 10.8 fluke, Ed Bryan had a 5.12 sea bass and one Thursday night Brand X trip was swamped by more than 300 bluefish.

One of a very few mackerel reports came from Eileen Fleischmann at Greenlawn Sport on May 27. John DiCuffa at Jack's Bait mentioned a 12.8 tautog taken off Norwalk by Scott Lindsay.

June: Scup began showing in mixed sizes and good numbers early in the month. The Port Jeff Ace and Four Winds reported some large porgies, and Huntington Prop weighed a 2.8 scup taken in a catch by Peebles and Allen. In time for the June 12 issue, Josephine Alise took a 13.11 tiderunner, a possible IGFA 4 or 6 kg line class record. Also of note in early June was Lorry Mangan's 9.4 tautog on 6 kg line aboard the Captain Bob. John Rainis on the Prime Time III had a 3.8, 19½ inch flounder off Gardiner's.

Hugh Chancy and Bob Parent took some big blues off Lloyds on July 17, the largest of which was a 15.12 slammer and the Klondike VIII had a 14 pounder. A 17 pounder was weighed at Jack's Bait. Some of the newer party craft in the area began posting good catches, namely, Ralph Furillo's Young America out of Little Neck Bay and Carl Giangrande's Reliable from Flushing. Although Michael Attanasio had a 10.6 fluke on the Prime Time III at mid-month, summer flatfishing out east went downhill steadily, especially off Horton's Point. With bluefishing picking up dramatically, the Nancy Ann swung into evening fishing trips out of Orient. Numbers were super and sizes were 3 to 10 lbs. during most of the summer. In Port Jeff, Bruce Cash complemented brother Roy's bottom fishing bags with terrific numbers of blues and a few weaks on the Prowler. By late June, Dave Darrow's Tiderunner was augmenting the blues with splendid bass to 45 lbs. plus a few large tiderunners on live baits.

July: When the brown tide receded somewhat around Independence Day, Buoy 26 finally yielded some decent catches of porgies for boats from Captain Marty's and private craft from the Port of Egypt. Meat Johnson released a 43 lb. bass from the Glen Cove area beaches. The A.P. White Bait Shop weighed the last of the

eastern doormats, a 10.2 fluke taken by Vera Moschella around July 15. By month's end, the Peconic Star and Brand X realized that they were in the midst of a wonderful scup season w which was to last through October. Full buckets of mediums were the norm for eastern sharpies while good catches were also noted in the far west by the Apache and the North Star. However, because of the heavy concentration of bluefish, the scup fishing off Mattituck Inlet was up and down, according to most reports from the Mattituck Fishing Station and the Mattituck Inlet Station.

August: The warmest month featured some of the hottest fluking between Huntington and Mount Sinai. Mike Forresti had a 9.12 from Sand City on August 5 and the Caraftis Fishing Station and Ralph's boasted of good catches all month. Meanwhile Tom Bowman at Bowman's called his area "Bluefish City" wtih beaches, harbors and deep reefs all producing. Vin Randazzo had a 19.3 alligator on the Huntington Prop scales and Gordon Thompson brought a 6.11 into the Caraftis Fishing Station. Al Sturges at the Complete Angler weighed a 13 lb. weakfish, but tide-runners were a rarity.

John Alberda's Sound Charters TJ had a tremendous run of big scores in the mid-island area with bluefish on jigs and plugs and Rod DeLisle did the same on the Prowler in the Plum Gut zone. Average catches seemed to be some 20 fish per boat per hour! Willie Stamatis had blues to 17 lbs. off Horton's in a catch authenticated at Warren's late in August. The Boanne II proved that half-day trips for mixed bags could work quite well out of Southold, while the Sundowner was running to offshore grounds out of Orient for tuna and occasional billfish.

September: Good reports of catches on bunker chunks were reported by the beach boys at the Rocky Point Fishing Stop. Ralph Davenport at Ralph's took time off to hit the scup and tautog on the Middle Grounds with good steady results. Roy Cash's Port Jeff Ace mixed blues with bottom fish bags, while the Brand X and Peconic Star worked the New London grounds to augment their catches of mediums with a few jumbos. Larry Porter had a 3.12 scup on the A.P. White scales. Tautog angling began somewhat earlier than normal out east due to the dreadful fluke season and early tog seemed available in good numbers, though not great sizes. Chunkers weighed gorilla blues at tackle shops near North Fork beaches. A 22 pounder was handled at the Mattituck Fishing Station. Jack's Bait on City Island broke out the welcome mat for western tautog to 5 lbs. by the third week of September.

October: Sound temperatures remained in the mid-60s through the third October week, giving an added boost to blues, bass and scup. Margie Cash on the Port Jeff Ace had a record class 4¼ scup in a catch from the Middle Grounds on October 12. John Alberda's trips concentrated on catch and release bass by month's end.

November: Dave Brennan himself had an 11.5 tautog on the Peconic Star in early November and the Brand X and Prime Time III posted bulldogs all the way to 13.12; however, the fall peak prophesied by Richie Jensen, the all-around skipper of the Nancy Ann, never materialized. Except for a few deep wrecks that had not been picked over, fishing died after Thanksgiving. Bluefish to 16.6 were still coming into Four Winds Tackle and Huntington Prop as late as mid-November. Private boats from the Port of Egypt and Tony Loperfido's Fishalot had a few flounder reports from Orient, but the Peconic bays were virtually dead on arrival. By month's end, the mid-Island area had only flounder to offer.

December: With the exception of the hardies reporting surf catches at the Rocky Point Fishing Stop, there was little activity by mid-month. Party boats and liveries were wrapped up by Pearl Harbor Day.

Using reports as a guide is difficult, too. Who knows what spring weather will look like? Will striped bass be restored to a limited-catch status? How many years can the bluefish peak continue? Really, all we poor anglers can do right now is to root for the Giants in the Super Bowl, tie a few rigs and wait for winter to quit!

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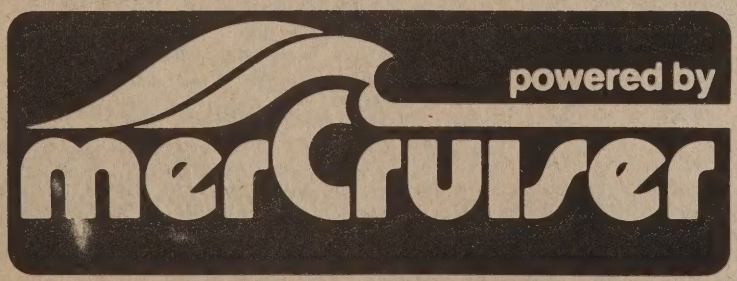

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FISHERMAN TRAVEL LOG:

ROADSIDE BONES

by Dick Mermon

One of the most prestigious and elusive species that has entertained anglers through the years, is the bonefish. The "ghost of the flats," has always been a difficult target due to its feeding habits, outstanding eyesight, spooky nature and supposed remote areas of travel. It can forage as a loner, or converge on the flats in great numbers, leaving telltale signs of murky water and vanish faster than it appeared. The attraction of this marine species has always been the challenge it offers, the hunt, and amazing charge for freedom. Most often the stalk and cast is accomplished from a boat on shallow flats where solitude prevails. The services of an experienced bonefish guide can bestow greater opportunities to the inexperienced. However, there are times when an angler wishes to become a "do-it-yourself" bonefisherman and learn from mistakes firsthand. Thus, I learned through this type of experience to expect the unexpected from these fish and discovered some new territory.

Traveling through the Florida Keys, south on US #1, my vision many times wandred from the highway onto the picturesque shallows bordering the roadway. During such times, thoughts entered my mind as to the possibility of bonefish being present so close to a main roadway.

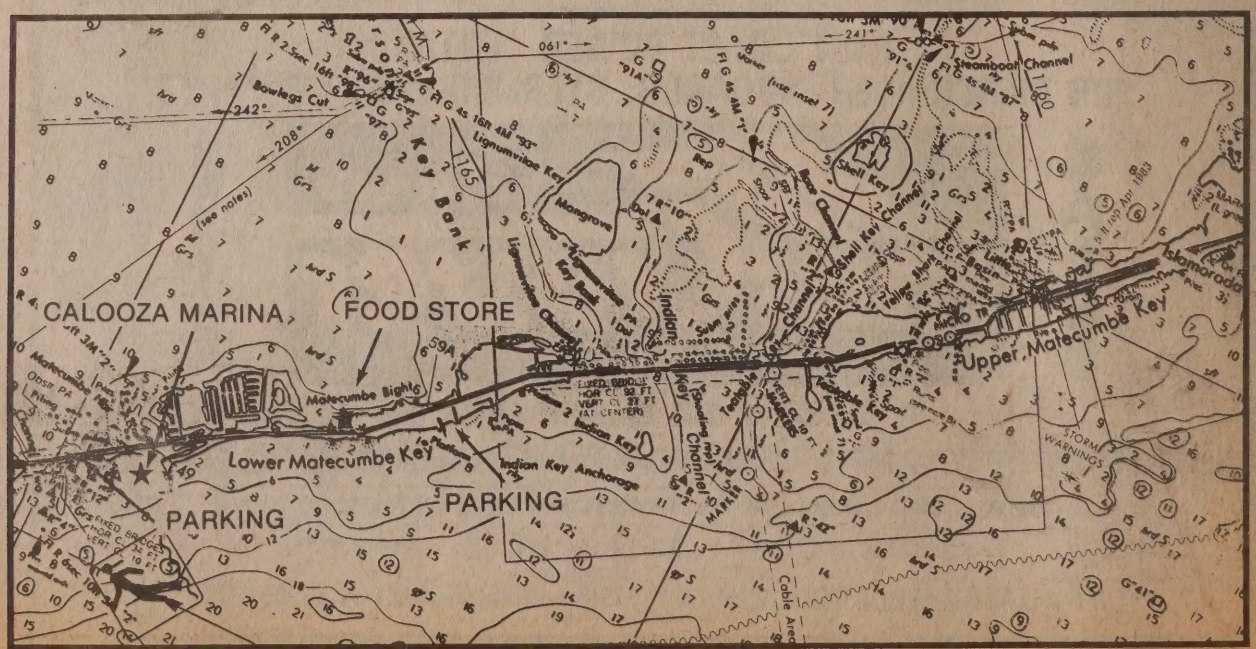
"Why should these fish bother coming so close to civilization when they have many other locations where solitude abounds?" were my thoughts. The idea of wasting time on any of these roadside flats which looked so inviting convinced me not to do anything about it. Then there was this bizarre occurrence while having lunch at an offbeat restaurant on Upper Matecumbe Key (better known as Islamorada), which changed my mind.

Sitting at an outside patio facing a shallow flat that abutted the dining area, my vision was drawn to a patch of nervous and unstable water moving inward. Much to my amazement, three large bonefish appeared, tailing and cruising in small circles for about five minutes, before slowly working away from shore. Who would have believed that the so-called "shy bonefish" dared approach so close to man's territory. This activity was the convincing factor in giving some attention to the roadside flats on Lower Matecumbe Key.

There are three off-the-highway locations where I have found bonefish present, but only during a flooding tide. When the tide begins to ebb, the fish disappear and the flats become barren of water. Each of the roadside shallows are found on the Atlantic Ocean side of the highway. Approaching Lower Matecumbe Key from the north, the interstate passes over Indian Key Channel Bridge and then onto the Key. The shallows on the left extend outward along the narrow channel, then parallel the roadway for some distance. However, this location was never a high yield area and spent little time trying to find out why.

Southward, the road passes through a tree-lined area, which suddenly opens, revealing the Atlantic shoreline and the close proximity to the road. On the Gulf, or the right side of the road, are newly developed homes and canals. These ocean shallows offer the angler a vast area to seek out the bones. Parking of a vehicle must be at least 20 feet off the main artery, according to Florida Highway Patrol, but the flats run uninterrupted for almost one-half mile. Where the trees begin once again, is the end of the public entranceway to the flats. From those trees, to the Calooza Marina is totally private and there is no trespassing permitted by these homeowners.

Continuing south on US #1 (still on Lower Matecumbe Key), my preferred "do it yourself" bonefish flats lay just beyond the Calooza Cove Marina. Here, too, the angler's vehicle can be parked facing the Atlantic, well off the roadway. This is not an extremely vast shallows, but does support deep



channels on three sides of it. On a rising tide, bonefish materialize and tail in several sections at one time. This is due to the boating channels which surround the flats and there is no definite pattern as to where they arrive or depart from.

Turtle grass covers a great deal of this skinny water up to the channel dropoff, though most of the shoreline is vegetation and hazard free. Wading is quite stable, with a few soft patches located near the deep descents. One additional feature of the Calooza shallows is that they also support some quality size barracuda, jacks, ladyfish and tarpon which utilize the channels rather than the flats themselves.

The stalking of these roadside bonefish flats is done exactly as if it were some remote flat. A bonefish is a bonefish and these fish are just as easily unnerved at the slightest sign of danger, but not quite so alarmed on the approach. The fish seem to have become somewhat accustomed to certain disturbances, tolerating them a bit more before streaking off to safety before returning to feed again within a few minutes. Thus, they can be stalked once more.

Although white or pink hued 1/8 ounce bucktails, tipped with a section of shrimp have hoodwinked a number of these bones, a whole shrimp offering is the best method. Shrimp are natural forage on the flats, as are nickel size blue crabs. Rigging the shrimp for proper presentation takes a special technique. First, the shrimp's tail fins are broken or bitten off from the body and the hook (1/0 Eagle Claw baitholder) inserted between the shell and flesh, from the tail end upwards. In this way, the shrimp conforms to the hook's shank and remains alive. It also emits a greater amount of scent, and will not become entangled in the grass when moved.

Bonefish, like all piscatorial creatures, have three primary accomplishment in life: forage, reproduce and keep out of predators way. When they find a suitable feeding location, it is utilized until something, or some reason deters them from entering. Roadside traffic does not seem to be a factor. The noise and vibrations are seemingly not close enough to spook the fish from the flats. What will evict the bonefish from these areas are cold weather/water, sharks, barracuda and splashing vibrations, such as those created by man while walking, casting, or boating. Fast movement and shadows also motivate bonefish to make themselves scarce, but if an angler is careful in his/her presentation and advance, there is no reason for a foul-up.

It is understandable why so many anglers feel today as I did several years ago about bonefish locations. Had it not been for that restaurant incident, I would have never discovered that the "ghosts of the flats" do utilize the most obvious places, like those roadside shallows of Lower Matecumbe Key.

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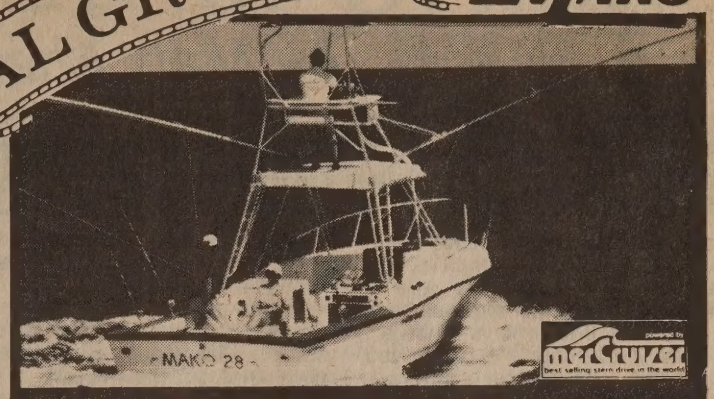

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SEEING IS BELIEVING

by Matt Ahern

A few bad apples are beginning to cause waves on the party boat scene.

As many of you who read these weekly articles know, my mail load is quite heavy. It seems every type of letter pertaining to fishing has been sent to me at one time or another. These may be happy letters, sad letters and complaining letters—whatever. Their subjects cover shore fishing, skiff fishing, party boat fishing—you name it. All these have been pretty general over the years. Lately, however, I've been receiving a number of complaints about conditions aboard various party boats. All manner of complaints. Surprisingly, though, few mention the slow fishing we often encounter—we realize, I guess, that, as the man says, yer pays yer money and yer takes yer chances.

No. Many of these complaints about party boat fishing run the gamut from mates who fish when the fishing is slow, to mates who don't know how to cut bait, to surly mates who care little about their passenger's welfare. Few disgruntled fishermen complain about the skipper.

Many complaints also focus on those "half-day" trips, where I'm told much time is spent "running around" than in actual fishing. How true this I don't know because I haven't made a half-day trip since 1930 or so. Another "biggie" is gilding the results of previous fishing trips when reporting to the media.

As one angered fisherman asked: "What's going on?"

Now. I'm always willing to take the part of party boat mates because I put in many years at that taxing job. I know, too, that when one deals with the public, be they fishermen or supermarket shoppers, all is not a bed of roses. But as fifty million Frenchmen can't be wrong, I figured where there's smoke, there's a fire, even if the blaze is coming from only a few.

That is the gist of many letters I receive. When things go well and party boat fishing hits its stride, these letters of complaint become few and far between. Everyone seems happy and satisfied. Human nature and all that. Therefore, because this is so, I figured the boys were only letting off a little steam. Or so I thought. But lo and behold, one day I discovered just how naive I'd been.

Let's take it from the beginning, the beginning being a wreck fishing trip for sea bass not too long ago.

"I'll never go out on this boat again!"

Sound familiar? It does if you've been party boat fishing for any length of time. Through experience I've found there are two types of fishermen who make this remark: those who actually mean it, and those who say it to alleviate the frustration we all feel when the fish fail to cooperate. Each needs to vent his feelings; and who among us can deny fishermen this privilege? Therefore, it is the skipper and his crew who must by needs bear the brunt of these fellow's discouragements.

Now. A good skipper and his crew understand this and while the complaining is indeed annoying and all that, it is, and always has been part of the fishing game. When fish fail to cooperate, there's not much we as fishermen can do about it, except perhaps to shrug our shoulders and say better luck next time. Sure, grouse and complain if you must, but that won't alter the fact that there's no fish in your bucket. So, if you mean it when you say you'll "never go out on this boat again," everyone will understand your feelings. But that doesn't help the blameless skipper who is breaking his neck trying to get you fish.

That you should understand, too.

Sure—I can hear you saying—you always stick up for the skipper. Well...to that I'll say: you bet your life I do. Absolutely. After 60 years of party boat fishing, I've found only one skipper who actually didn't care if his passengers caught fish or not.

Okay—now that we're squared

Most of today's mates remain good natured, and conscientious.

away on that, let me tell you of that sea bass trip I mentioned earlier, one which I sympathized wholeheartedly with both passenger and skipper.

It was a windy day, this day I want to tell you about. As the day progressed, it became more so. The skipper and all those experienced wreck fishermen aboard were certain sea bass would be tough to come by. Gusty west winds and a strong full moon-nurtured ebb tide would surely make the fine art of anchoring precisely over a sea bass wreck more demanding than usual. But the passengers wanted sea bass and sea bass it would be. Do or die.

Well, we arrived at the wreck site and after much maneuvering, the skipper got the anchor over. No fish. Re-anchor. Still no fish. One hour passed. Then another. Not a bite. Up anchor; try again. No action. This continued for the better part of the morning and the skipper was beginning to wear himself thin. It was enough to make even the most die-hard sinker bouncer discouraged.

I was fishing in the stern and just as bored to tears as the rest of the guys. And because of this, my attention was diverted now and then to a young crew member who at times reminded me of myself over a half-century ago when I, too, was learning the party boat ropes. Maybe he was fourteen. At the moment, he was busily slicing skimmer, but for what reason I didn't know, for certainly there were no fish coming up to warrant such effort.

Fishing near me was a party of four and one of these fishermen said something about it being too bad there were no fish. Just ordinary party boat conversation. I agreed. The kid, though, put aside his bait knife and in a know-it-all tone of voice said: "We're over the wreck." Then as a bit of enlightenment for those know-nothing fishermen on board, he added: "We can't help it if the fish don't bite."

Without a doubt he was passing on information he'd picked up from someone who knew even less than he did. Okay—he might have been right about being blameless when fish don't bite, but in no way were we over the wreck. This was the first time in over a half-century of wreck fishing when I failed to get "hung-up," or suffer the loss of sinkers and/or hooks. We just weren't over that wreck. Period. I said nothing, just mentally chalked up his remarks to loyalty to the skipper, with perhaps a bit of allowable ignorance thrown in, and let it go at that.

I returned to the non-existent fishing. A minute or so later, that same discouraged fisherman said in vexation: "I'll never go out on this boat again!" It was then when the kid stepped completely out of line. He glared at the fisherman and said: "That's fine with me."

The hapless fisherman and I exchanged glances. An old-timer behind me muttered: "I heard it, but I don't believe it."

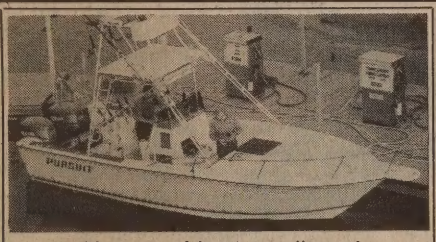
I was shocked. That's the only word for it. By golly, those letters of complaint were not someone's fancied flights of imagination.

I know that while learning the party boat ropes, had I made such a remark, two things would have happened. First, I would have gotten the back of a hand across my smart-aleck mouth. Secondly, the skipper would have been told and I would have gotten a number ten boot you know where. And not only that, I'd have been banished from that party boat forever. No ifs, ands, or buts.

Whether those letters of complaint were right or not isn't the point. What I want to bring out is this: Is the lack of respect for our fellows so prevalent that it is now being noticed in the fishing game? Are those who should never be in the fishing business in the first place, spoiling it for those who belong? It would seem so.

I'll tell you the truth, fellers, I never thought I'd see the day it would be necessary to write an article such as this. Where is it all going to end? I wish I knew. However, I do know this: if that innocent skipper and others like him who are suffering under the same burden don't do something fast, he and every innocent, conscientious, hard-working party or charter boat mate will suffer accordingly. They'll find it difficult not to be tarred with the same brush. No fisherman will put up with surly mates and those who care little for their jobs.

A word to the wise is sufficient.



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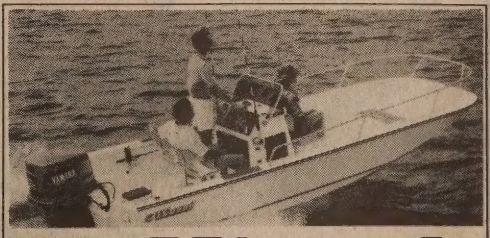

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THE TERMINAL END:

PORGY RIGS

by Russ Wilson

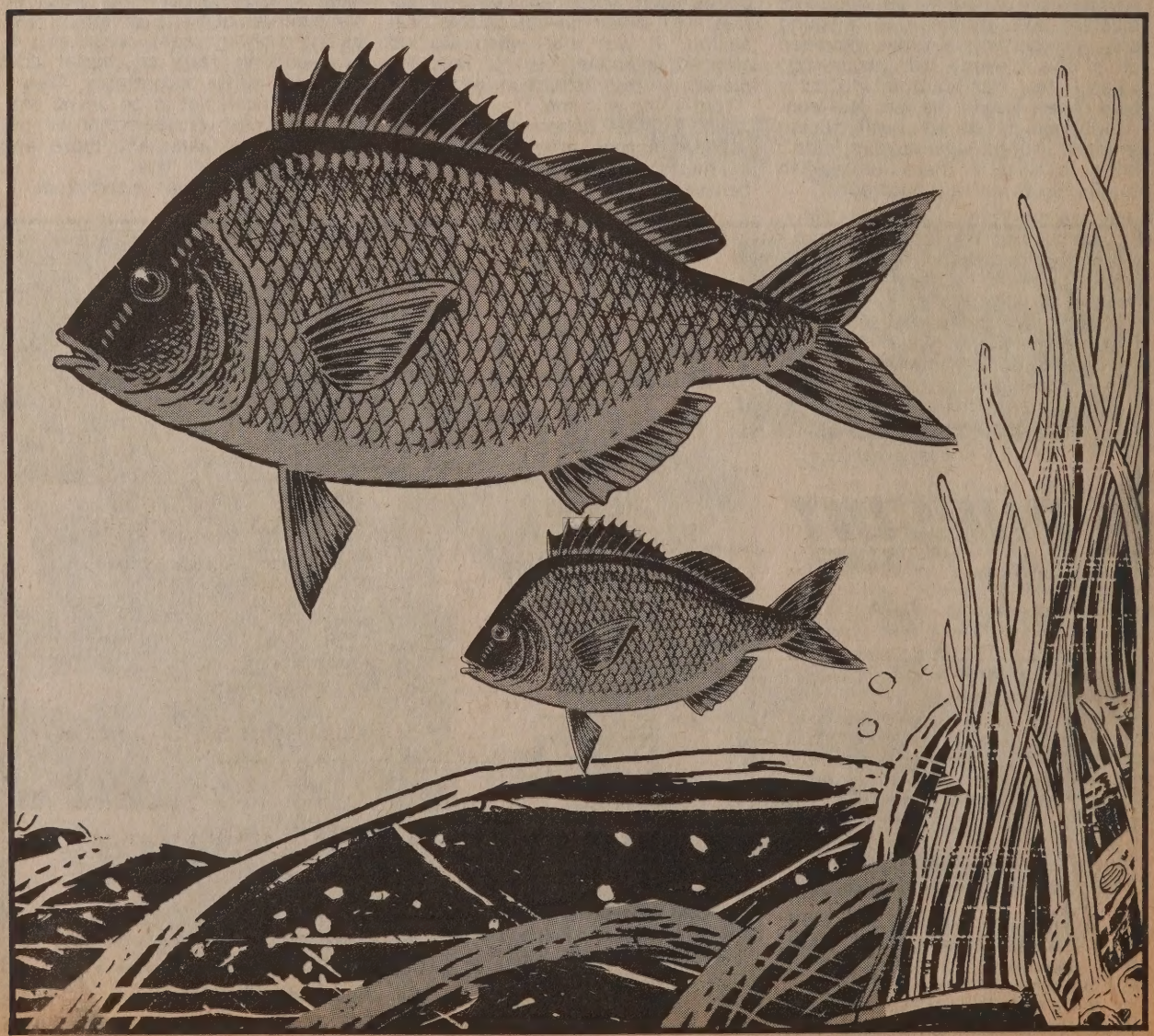
The porgy, *Stenotomus chrysops* or *Stenotomus vesicolor*, more popularly known as the scup, was at one time the most highly prized bottom fish among party, charter and rental boaters. Throughout the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, it was possible to find tremendous populations of scup most anywhere along the North Atlantic Seaboard.

Overharvesting by foreign fleets, as well as the American commercial fishing pressure, caused a decline in the number of porgies inhabiting coastal waters and throughout the 1960s and 1970s porgy catches diminished dramatically. The northern porgy population has recovered to some degree, but is still not on a par with the golden years.

Today, there are few party or charter skippers who fish specifically for scup. This does not, however, mean there are no porgies to be caught, only that the fishery has lost much of its appeal due to the lack of larger "shad" size fish. The vast majority of porgies taken in recent years are classed as "sand" porgies and will weigh less than a half pound and measure no larger than perhaps 5 to 7 inches from tip of nose to fork of tail.

The porgy has a rather limited weight range, with the average size being less than one pound. Fish of up to four pounds have been recorded but not in recent years. Most of the porgies that are caught from coastal waters will weigh 1/2 to 1 lb. and any fish that weighs 1½ to 2½ lbs. is worth showing off to friends and will probably qualify as a pool winner.

A schooling fish, the porgy will normally be found in small groups comprised of similar size fish. Find a spot



that harbors big "shads" and more likely than not, every porgy you catch will be large. By the same token, fish an area that is populated with smaller, "sand" porgies and each one you haul to the surface will be no larger than your hand.

As an example, the largest scup entered in the 10th Annual IGFA Fishing Contest weighed only 1 lb. 15 oz. That fish was caught on October 14, 1985 at Cutchogue in Long Island Sound by Martin H. Garrell, a frequent contributor to the Long Island Edition of The Fisherman Magazine.

Last fall, during November, we had an opportunity to visit Block Island and noted some big scup being shipped by one of the local commercial fishermen. Those were the biggest porgies we've seen in years, with an average weight of close to 2 lbs. and some even larger. Unfortunately, we could not locate the person who was shipping the catch to find out where he had taken the big scup. If we had, he would not have revealed the hot-spot for big porgies.

The porgy is widely distributed and can be found inhabiting the Atlantic Ocean as far north as Nova Scotia and south to Florida. The primary fishing areas are in the more northerly extremes where there is a directed commercial fishery as well as some sport fishing.

It is obvious the porgy is a light tackle fish. Many of the old-timers who fished aboard party boats carried heavy tackle and hoisted double and triple headers of big porgies to the surface without having the rod bend. Today, the trend is definitely toward lighter equipment, so the fight of each fish can be fully enjoyed.

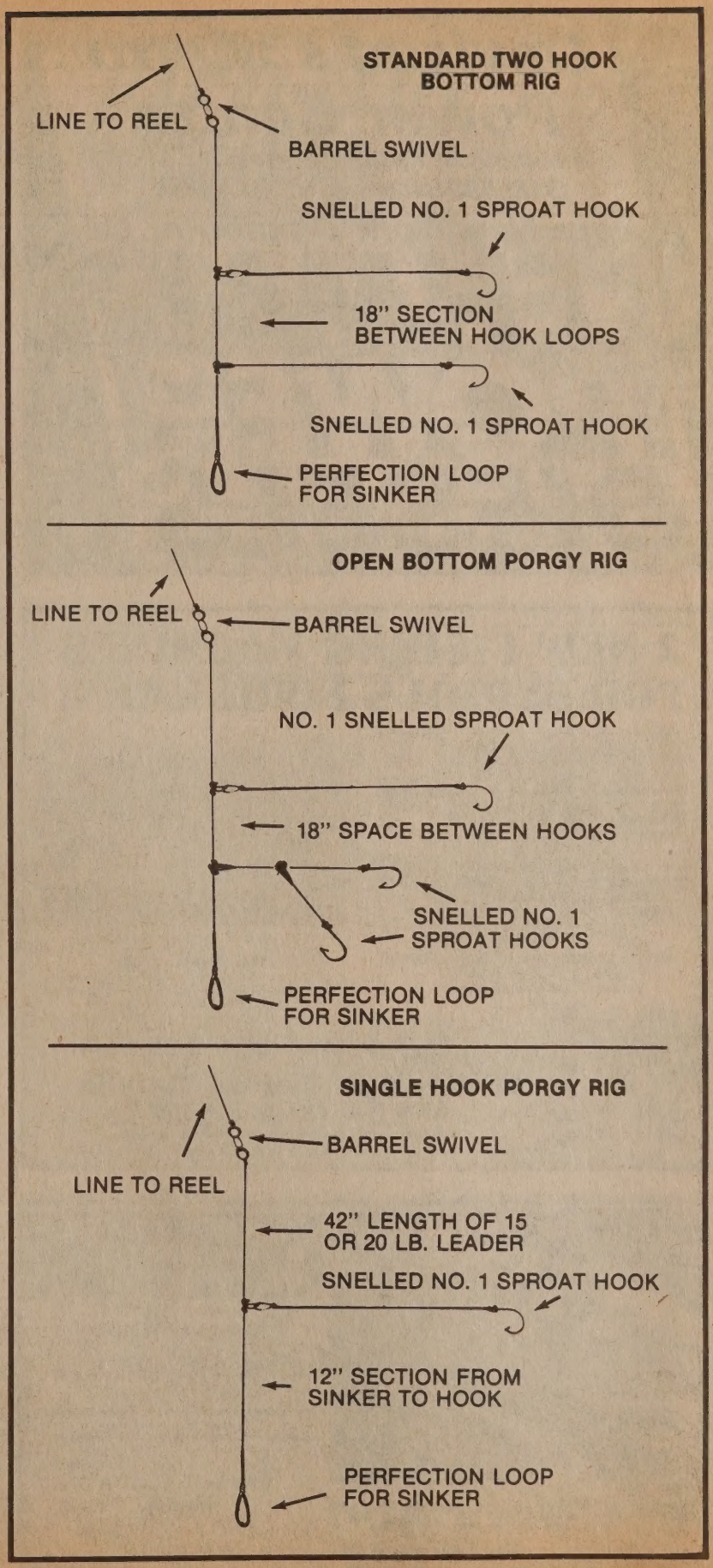
Most porgy fishermen will use spinning or conventional type outfits consisting of a rod measuring 6 to 7 feet in length and rated to handle weights of up to three ounces. Any reel that has a line capacity of a couple hundred yards of 10 to 20 pound test line is suitable for catching porgies from inshore waters.

Experienced porgy fishermen find it pays to use light lines and will spool their reels with monofilament ranging from 10 to 15 pound test when porgies are the primary quarry. Unfortunately, most days you will be fishing waters that also harbor sea bass, fluke and tautog. These are larger fish and normally require slightly stouter equipment. To cover all bases, most fishermen will follow a middle of the road approach by rigging heavier than necessary for porgy in order to handle the other species.

The porgy is normally found inhabiting structure. Mussel beds, rocky bottom grounds and sunken wrecks are the primary habitat of these tough little fighters. To be successful, you must fish right in the structure.

Small hooks are a must. Many of today's savvy porgy fishermen prefer the Sproat style hook in sizes 1, 2 or 1/0. We've caught small porgies when

(Continued on next page.)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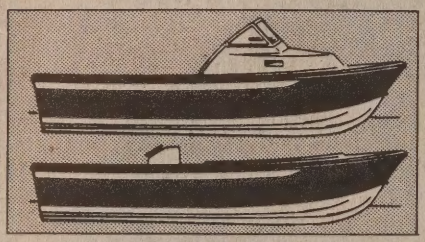

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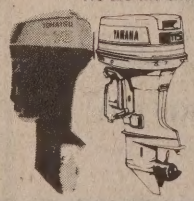

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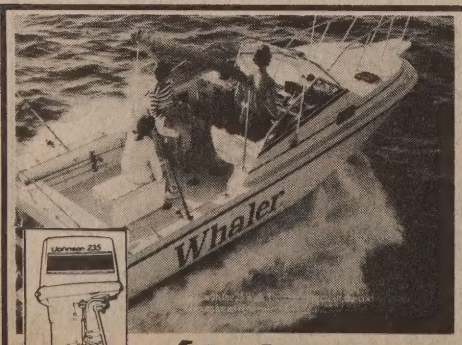

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fishing for winter flounder with a size 8 or 10 hook and on numerous occasions taken larger porgies when rigged for tautog with a regular Virginia style #7 hook or when using a beak style 1/0 hook.

There is no doubt the Sproat hook is the ideal choice. Porgies eat a varied menu as do most other bottom species. Small pieces of sand or blood worm, strips of clam, or squid and even hard baits including fiddler or green crab will get results when porgies are inhabiting the inshore structure.

Blessed with a rather small mouth, the porgy cannot take a big bait. For this reason, most experienced porgy fishermen will use bite size pieces. Worms should be cut into sections measuring 1½ to 2 inches in length. Clam strips or strips of squid can be cut into similar lengths, but should not measure more than 1/2 inch in width. Fiddler crab can be used whole but when baiting with green crab, it is advisable to cut the crab into halves or quarters.

A lot of otherwise knowledgeable fishermen are of the mistaken opinion that the porgy, due to its rather diminutive size, does not put up a fight. Nothing could be further from fact. Porgies are tough little fighters and will battle deep with a dogged determination. A big shad porgy will surprise most anglers when, after pulling and hauling on the rod, they see a foot long fish pop to the surface.

The scup is an excellent fish to eat. The flesh is clear, white and flaky. Filleted or whole, porgies can be pan fried, broiled, baked, steamed or prepared in a fish chowder.

Cleaning porgies can be a hassle due to their scale-covered body and a sharp dorsal fin that has a way of spearing unsuspecting anglers who try to grasp the fish by the middle. Porgies are also very bony and unless prepared by filleting, care must be exercised when eating them.

There are porgy rigs currently marketed commercially by coastal rig makers. Some that we've used with success are quite easy to tie and anyone who has a basic knowledge of knot tying can make up a dozen or more in less than an hour.

Standard Two Hook Bottom Rig: This rig is probably the most popular among today's serious porgy fishermen. It has been around for decades and is as effective now as it was during the days when monofilament line was not yet invented.

We use a regular 42 inch length of 15 pound test stiff leader material to start off the rig. A perfection loop or a double line loop formed by using an overhand knot is tied in at one end of the leader. This loop is for the sinker.

Six inches above the sinker loop we tie a dropper in the leader so a snelled Sproat hook can be attached by using a loop to loop connection. This facilitates quick changing of hooks while at the same time cutting down on the amount of unnecessary hard-

ware.

A second dropper is tied in 18 inches above the bottom dropper. This, too, allows a second hook to be attached by using the loop to loop connection.

The remaining end of the leader can be attached to the running line via a barrel swivel or with a perfection knot. It is possible to substitute three way swivels instead of using the dropper loops. Some anglers do prefer the three way, feeling the additional hardware does not affect the rig's effectiveness.

Open Bottom Rig: We often fish the mussel beds and some inshore waters where bottom obstructions are not severe enough to cause a heavy loss of rigs. In these rare instances, we'll often use more than two hooks in the hopes of catching double and triple headers of porgies.

The rig is basically identical to the standard two hook rig with the exception of adding one or two more hooks.

Start off with the 42 inch length of 15 or 20 pound test clear monofilament leader material and tie in the sinker loop and the first dropper loop 6 inches above the sinker.

This is where the open bottom rig varies. Instead of using a single hook from the dropper, connect one hook by using the loop to loop system and then, at the center of the hook leader form a loop and insert the loop from the leader of a second hook. Draw the connection tight and make a single overhand knot in the leader to keep the second hook from sliding. Both hooks will now lay out from the leader and will not tangle with the sinker when the baits are lowered to bottom.

A second dropper, 18 inches above the first, can be used to attach two more hooks or just a single hook. When you are on a big school of porgies and bottom snags are not a serious problem, this rig will really put fish in the cooler in a hurry.

Single Hook Rig: A lot of porgies are caught from sunken wrecks. The multiple hook setup is not a good choice when fishing wrecks because the second hook will often snag in the wreck and cost a lost fish or a loss of the entire rig and the fish you had hooked.

Again, using the standard 42 inch section of stiff leader material, make the sinker loop by doubling the line and tying a Surgeon's knot or use the perfection loop. When tying the end loop make sure to allow enough room to insert a bank or dipsey type sinker.

Twelve inches above the sinker make a dropper loop. Using the loop to loop connection, attach a snelled (12 inch leader) Sproat hook of the appropriate size and draw the loop to loop connection tight.

When fishing mid-depth wrecks, this rig is probably the best choice, for often there will be large sea bass, blackfish and ling inhabiting the same structure. If the fish are large, you'll have your hands full just trying to muscle one to the surface with light tackle.

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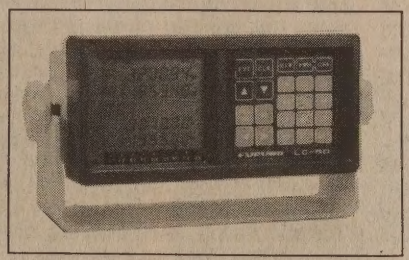

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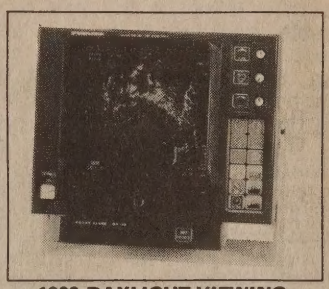

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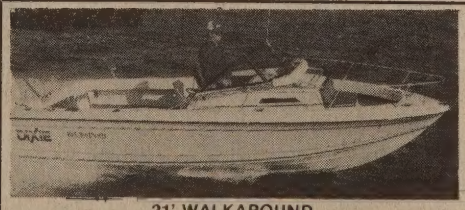

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CUSTOM BUTT WRAPS: MYLAR MAGIC

by Ted Bingham

There are many design and color combinations available to the craftsman. Thread colors, although extensive, are still limited. Any technique that allows for color expansion is worthy of consideration. Some of the possibilities include tinting and the controlled bleeding of present colors.

Tinting, or the outright changing of a color can be accomplished with a felt marker. In this case stripes, designs, etc., are drawn onto the thread before it is wrapped. Until experience dictates, the outcome will be one of chance. It may seem to be a rather irregular method, but some truly unique patterns have emerged from its usage.

The second, and most preferred choice, is the application of mylar. This thin, reflective foil can be of valuable assistance. It has been known to the fly fisherman for many years. Small, narrow strips of this tinsel has adorned many a fly, granting it that subtle glitter needed to attract its prey. Shortly, it was discovered that encapsulating mylar in clear plastic didn't deter its ability to sparkle. At this point, the offshore lure makers jumped in and had a field day. Along with tackle suppliers some local shops are now stocking it, under the guise of prism paper, for those who wish to dabble in lure making and customizing. Combining this with artist supply houses, availability should not pose a problem. There is a limited, but adequate, selection of metallic colors that can be obtained. The most common are: blue, green, red, gold and silver. This trend has also caught on with the thread companies. Years ago Holland Thread Co. incorporated a nylon-mylar thread in its line-up. This was recently answered by Gudebrod with the introduction of its Trimar line. Both types utilize most of their nylon threads and give a choice of either gold or silver mylar. Regardless of which is used, the addition of mylar can generate unique results. When wrapped with specific intent they can even trick the eye. This is evident in Old Glory, where it was used as the field of stars. From only a short distance away, the eye perceives the mylar to be individual stars. The same is also true of the Rebel Flag's cross. Most patterns, however, will derive their effect from single strands of the thread highlighting an area. When working with anything that sparkles I find that too much of it tends to hide the pattern's fine points. Wide bands, when used, are more appealing if they are the main focus. The amount used will depend upon both blank diameter and the size of the pattern. A wide band surrounded by a much larger band of normal thread will offset the glitter effect. Don't forget to review some of the variations already covered when searching for possibilities. Forming each half of a split diamond, with a different mylar thread has an intriguing effect, especially if it's around a bright center. Regardless of its anticipated usage, at least one spool should accompany everyone's arsenal.

Opting for strips of foil, in lieu of threads, is a simple procedure. The only knowledge required is that of forming the desired pattern. There are two types of mylar implants, above and below the wrappings. For the exposed wrap, begin by spiraling the first five threads of the pattern. When this is completed, cut a square of foil about twice as large as the diamond formed by the five threads. If the mylar does not have an adhesive back place a dab of quick drying glue on each piece. Position each square over the diamonds. Allow them to dry for a few minutes and then continue to wrap the pattern. The successive strands of thread will firmly secure the mylar in place should the glue fail. Upon completion of the design, apply color preserver and/or rod finish, as neither will affect the sparkle to any great extent. The most appealing colors tend to be opposite. That is, light mylar (gold, silver) surrounded by dark threads or vice versa. Likewise, a single thread outer border of mylar, the same color as the insert, may be added to enhance the project. One consideration that should be included is thread size. If the threads holding the mylar are of a different size a bubbling effect might be encountered. This is because each side of the pattern is wrapped one side at a time. As tension is placed on one side the mylar raises on the other. Therefore, a small dome may appear. Depending upon one's point of view, this can be an asset. The dome possesses more surface area and can reflect more light.

Obtaining a predetermined bleed effect, using mylar or regular thread, requires forethought. In order to thoroughly understand this some knowledge of thread is needed. There are two types of thread: NCP and regular or non-NCP thread. NCP originally was intended to eliminate the use of color preserver. Looking at the same color in both threads, the difference is vividly apparent. NCP is dull, while regular threads are bright. This is because NCP is not nylon, but rather an opaque fiber. It is this opaque quality that prevents a bleed through and the reason color preserver is not needed. Regular thread, on the other hand, is somewhat transparent. With this edification, we now have another toy to play with.

When many of us learned wrapping it was forbidden to place a light color over a darker one as a bleed through could occur. Living with that taboo severely limited color combinations. The color spectrum has basic colors. When combined, they result in new colors. The same exchange is somewhat true of mixing two regular threads. Tints rather than actual colors will result. For example, a band of white spiraled over green threads will produce a light green. White over red will result in a light red. The same basic results apply to almost any light color placed over a darker one. Thread size, again, plays a part. The density of a thread delineates the amount of color that can pass through it. Therefore, size A and 00 are best suited for the task as they are narrow. Two precautions: first, the use of color preserver will defeat the entire process since it will turn the threads opaque. Second, remember that any under color will also show through. This includes both the blank and the underwrap. It could be necessary to paint or wrap the blank before wrapping the regular under wrap.

A wider expanse of patterns can be added with the assistance of mylar. The same technique of wrapping is used with the exception that preglued pieces of mylar are placed under the wrap. The procedure for a standard wrap with six diamonds follows. Set up the layout and cut six 1/4 inch pieces of mylar. Position and glue each one over the layout centers. Spiral the first regular thread and center it in the squares. Now wrap almost the entire mylar area with regular thread. Switch to NCP thread for the edges of the mylar and the rest of the pattern. The change, at this point, creates symmetrically centered inserts as the NCP will cover any ex-

cess mylar. This type design leaves a 3D type diamond in the center. Performed with thin thread and a light coat of varnish you will obtain the maximum amount of bleed through.

If you're industrious, an experimenter could spend years with mylar. As a first choice try continuously switching between NCP and regular threads. By maintaining narrow bands a variety of plaid patterns can emerge. These can be multiplied by covering areas of the blank with the same, or variously, shaped pieces of mylar. The first few times the design will be strictly pot luck until experience allows you to envisage other results. Another option would be to use a mylar backing as large as the intended diamond. Wrap the pattern, leaving an exposed center and complete the project with regular thread. This will allow the diamond's exterior to bleed around the insert. A superlative design would be to use this bleed as a background for a closed wrap. Think of how the Rebel Flag would look if the red was transparent?

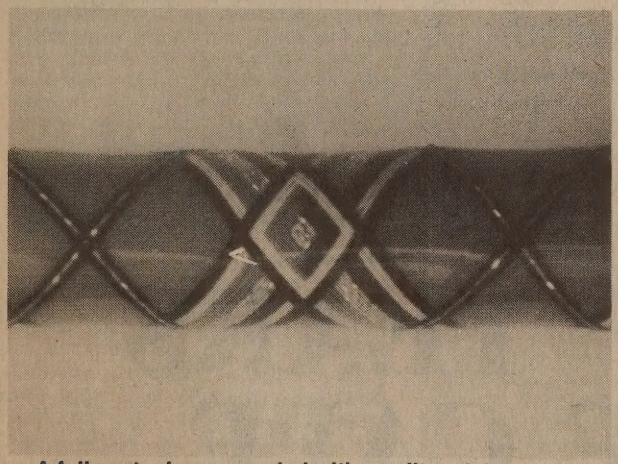
Although I said we would keep it simple this week...I lied. So, rather than decribe a mylar flag we'll try a similar pattern of a nova with the use of mylar. Actually, the mylar probably makes it easier. Like the flag, it involves both inward and outward wrappings simultaneously.

Begin by centering the layout cross hairs. Since the wrapping order is one thread in and three threads out, each complete pass will require a total of four thread widths. Taking this into account, the example will be a total of 20 threads. Don't let this number scare you. Remember, each pass will reduce it by 4 threads. Cut a square of red mylar large enough to accommodate a total of 20 threads. Glue the squares over the center of each layout cross, point up. Now place a box, using light (yellow) colored thread, 5 thread widths to the outside of the mylar's center. If you decide to wrap this pattern without mylar, only form the box. The following sequence is for either method, however, the threads described will be for mylar.

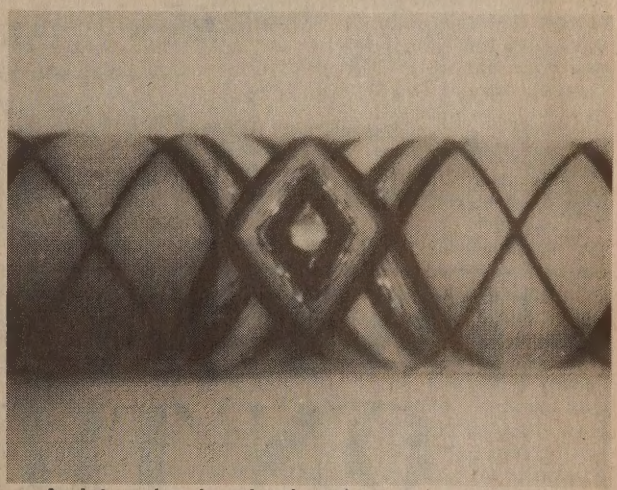
One light colored (yellow) regular thread in toward center; three dark colored NCP threads, against the box, outward. The NCP threads may be wrapped in bands to save time. Repeat the sequence until the design closes in on itself.

If you wish to change the shape of the star, the ratio must be varied. This example used a three to one ratio. If the background number (3) were to be increased, the star would become even narrower. Decreasing it produces a fat star. Variations include using regular thread, instead of NCP for the first, or last, few background threads. This would create a glow around the star. A truly unique change enlists the use of a split diamond. Only the inside threads are split and the result is a 3D star. This is accomplished by spiraling one color, up and down on the top inside of the box. The next strand is run, up and down, on the bottom inside of the box. As it develops you'll notice one set taking up residence on the right side, the other on the left, inside of the box. The sequence still remains the same: one pass inward (2 colors) and 3 outer threads. If one of the split colors are very dark the effect intensifies. Other variations and placements of vairous NCP threads will be left to your imagination.

As we continue to explore intricate patterns, background and shading will be used more extensively. Mylar is only one way of producing special effecs. Next week's subject is one that you're probably familiar with, but the extremes that a chevron can be carried to might come as a surprise.

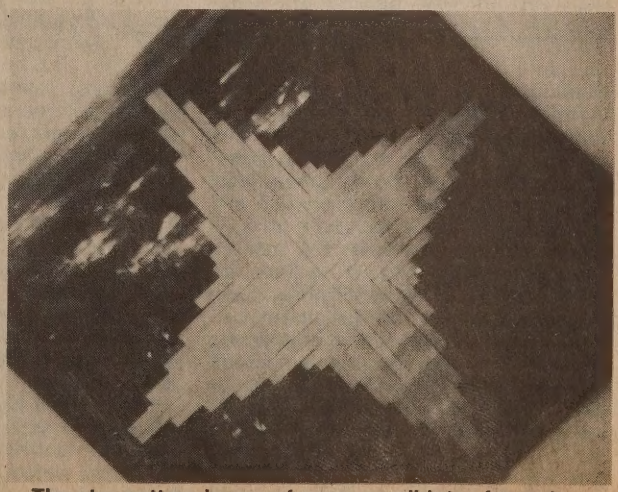


A foil center is surrounded with a split and the trim is built into a small diamond.



An internal mylar trim thread around a foil insert.

A base wrap name weave helps enhance this foil insert.



The star pattern is one of many candidates for mylar or a bleed.

TWENTY YEARS ON THE CAPE

Part Six — *by Frank Daignault*

Finding stripers was never easy, even in times when everybody thought that fishing was good. Fact is that the finding of the fish is more a social phenomemon than a natural one. It is more a case of who is looking than the actual population. This is why for any judgment to be made on the fishing the same person should be looking. That person must not allow any influences to taint his judgment because those he asks may not know because they may be unable to find fish themselves; or, quite understandably in this competitive secret milieu, they don't want you to know. Having tested the very same spots that I fished 23 years ago, I can tell you that there are as many bass today as there were at any time during the best years. Average size is between 18 and 27 inches, well under the Massachusetts requirement of 30 inch total length. Moreover, this year has produced excellent fishing for 40 lb. plus fish both at Nauset, to a lesser degree, and P-Town where the true concentration of big fish has been. If you couldn't read and didn't know about the striper drought you'd find that nothing really had changed. However, we hasten to point out that there is a shortage of fish from, say 15 to 35 pounds.

The present regulations, which are different for each state, have been put in place to protect the '82 Chesapeake year-class which game managers feel is the last chance of preserving that race of stripers. Because it is impossible to determine which is a striper's river of origin, fantastic numbers of Hudson River linesides are enjoying the protection of these regulations. With no netting going on this side of the Hudson and de facto catch and release fishing going on with the rod and reelers, Hudson fish under 30 inches probably are suffering greater mortality from bluefish bites than anything else. Whatever their river of origin, we have watched this group of fish grow for three years, the legal limit a few inches ahead of their noses with each passing season. And we know that regulations are being put in place that will lengthen minimums for the '87 season. With haul seining over at Long Island and a ban on the sale of bass in New York, apparently

Fulton Street isn't even handling them, destroying the major marketplace for stripers. Any legally caught bass, by a licensed angler that is over 30 inches, are sold locally on the Cape, mostly for restaurant use. Last I heard the dock price was 90 cents which is about one-third what it was when Fulton St. was buying. Even if the New York market reopens in the future, I think the PCBs scare on Hudson fish will have driven many buyers away.

I've been reading The Fisherman papers every week since the publication started and I wouldn't miss the area fishing reports in the back, particularly between May and November. You see any shortage of striped bass? Never mind what I say because I could have lost my mind somewhere in back of Long Bar. Ask Dave Pickering, who writes for this paper and hangs out plenty in Narragansett, if there is a shortage of stripers. We fish the trout ponds together from late February on and all he talks about are the lonely nights he spends in summer there releasing bass until it gets downright boring. He says that the bass fishing never slowed up, where I, at least, am willing to concede that '82 and '83 were the pits. Remember now, and we cover our little hindside very carefully here, while we say that there are a lot of bass we don't know where they come from. Frankly, I don't care because fishing is fishing. We'll moralize some other time; I'm not the boss of the Atlantic.

In any examination of today's fishing it is only fitting to acknowledge the influence of bluefish upon the Cape's fishing. The Cape probably has the finest surf bluefishing in the world and P-Town is the best of that. Nauset Beach is a distant second, not really warming up until late summer, performing somewhat erratically, probably because of shallower water. If anything is wrong with the bluefishing it is that it is too easy, almost boring at times, when the choppers slash and break clear out all around your plug. Angling methods are not getting a whole lot of refinement because few feel that it is either necessary or desired. You can only do so much pulling and hauling; even then, what will you do with that much fish?

Lean days, perhaps earlier in the season, boatmen will troll wire line and jigs. But once the August population arrives most feel that there is little need and resort to surface plugs for top water action. There has been, during the time we write of here and particularly the last ten years, developed an enormous charter fleet in Cape Cod Bay that is both successful and has served the sporting public notably. If there is ever a return to normalcy in bluefish populations—say to the levels we had when I started over 20 years ago—the economic effect will be disastrous. But we are unable to anticipate any reason for this other than those historical accounts, dating way back, that characterize the bluefish as more scarce than they are now.

And, in fairness to all the pleasure that the bluefish has yielded, it must be taken into account that not all fishermen either live on Cape Cod or have had a lifetime of surfcasting. Many, constrained by the rigors of earning a living hundreds of miles inland, are understandably thankful to be able to reap the pleasures of such a fine resource. For them, and increasingly for me, now that the "life" is history, the mid-watch coming of life to a line is a fitting consummation of a fishing trip.

"Virtually nothing is being done to preserve access to these great shoals of linesides for the shore fisherman."

Cape Cod today, on the beach, suffers from over-regulation and a glut of illegal stripers. In the Seashore Park 90 percent of the beach is closed to oversand vehicles, is inaccessible by any other means and virtually closed by parking regulations from midnight to 6AM. Even where driving is permitted the few miles from Race Light east, the effect of compressing vehicles that normally would have been disbursed, is to create a traffic situation monitored by radar. Nauset Beach is more laid back, but the logistics of driving 11 miles for catch and release fishing has apparently disheartened a majority of traditional anglers. We say "traditional" anglers, as opposed to rod and reel commercials, because most of the selling that has taken place over the years has been done by ordinary people simply defraying their angling expenses; no real profits were involved. Whatever the reasons, the logic, the desire to see stripers preserved more or marketed less, we don't moralize here. Rather, we attempt to state the Cape's condition as we see it. What remains of regulars are fishing less nights for shorter hours; commercials are gone because even legal fish are underpriced; the townies who came out when the big bucks of the late 70s emerged are about gone, save a few who made the transition to sport fishing; and, vacationers, no doubt scared off by rumors of striper decline, are less evident. However, percentage wise this group has held up the best, no doubt because the charm and drama of fishing the beach remains.

There is one undeniable result of removing the buck from surfcasting: along with less fishermen, there is a friendlier, more laid back atmosphere where people stand around in a blitz. The push, follow-that-car or take his spot when he puts the fish away philosophy is gone. Fists seem packed in mothballs. Last time that I was on Nauset, a weeknight, there were two campers with lights out and sound asleep; there were two small vehicles who fished politely until midnight; and throwbacks, to roughly 28 inches, all over the place whacked sand eels unmolested. If this is what advocates thought was needed to save stripers, they got it.

There is one last consideration, both in the name of conservation and good sense. If we are going to fish for bass with the intent of returning them, traditional angling methods are going to have to be modified drastically. Among those surfmen who remain, plugs with numbers of treble hooks are still widely used, which present obvious dangers to both stripers and anglers. Invariably, a percentage of undersize bass are going to be wounded by such a large number of hook points and with what is not buried waving around in the air, anglers themselves are in danger, now that billy clubs are no longer in use. Trebles should be traded for single hooks where action is not affected. Perhaps bait rods, if they are to be used at all, should be tended more closely.

Last week, when we spoke of the interrelationship between having bass to fish for and a beach to fish from, we were deliberately hitting upon the dark clouds of the future. Again, I have no doubt but that the striper as a species—when the Hudson's comeback and Chesapeake controls and stocking are taken into account—will enjoy an even greater emergence than is in evidence thus far. The effects of stringent regulation are only now becoming evident and we can look forward to an explosion in the Atlantic striper population. But, virtually nothing is being done to preserve access to these great shoals of linesides for the shore fishermen. For all the management in place for the fish there is nothing for the fishermen. Local jurisdictions harass anglers at the behest of residents who seek control of a shore far beyond the limits of their own property. One need only look at how bottled up the Connecticut shoreline is to recognize the inevitable incursion of the same practices in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts; and federal help is tantamount to having the fox guard the chickens. And, while we have spoken so much of striper fishing past, access should be our greatest concern for the future. After all, my 20 years on Cape Cod was then, and this is now.

RETURN TO BAITCASTING

by C. Boyd Pfeiffer

Today, baitcasting equipment, or level wind reels have gained new popularity. Manufacturers not only include the old favorites such as Garcia and Shakespeare, but "new" companies such as Daiwa, Shimano, Ryobi, Childre that have strongly entered the reel market. Penn has had casting reels for some years now, introduced even though they were a departure to their fine line of saltwater reels.

That wasn't always the case, though and a generation ago, it seemed as if spinning tackle would solve not only all the problems found with casting equipment, but would also replace fly tackle. Fortunately, neither happened.

Th resurgence in casting tackle probably began with the bass fishing crowd, the growth of tournament circuits such as B.A.S.S., Operation Bass and U.S. Bass, but today includes modern casting reels in both fresh and salt water markets.

The result is more and more casting for more species of fish on all waters. While modern reels with magnetic cast control have solved many of the casting problems and backlashes associated with casting reels, there are still tips for using this tackle that can increase accuracy, extend distance and increase usefulness. And for the saltwater angler many of these tips involve using the tackle in ways that the manufacturers only thought of for freshwater bass fishermen.

These tips involve two completely different areas. One is the mechanical or the effective use of the reel; the other involves the art and skill of casting. Mechanical and reel tackle tips include:

1. Buy the right tackle for the job. Purchase the tackle that is the easiest for you to use. Most reels are designed for easy casting. Exceptions are the very few feels (the Shimano Brush Buster, for example) that are not designed for casting, but for freshwater bass flipping.

Casting reels come in both round and teardrop shapes, standard, narrow and wide spool models, different weights and different shapes of the side plate.

Another important feature is the free spool release. A pushbutton such as was orginally found on Garcia Ambassadeur reels was standard for years, but today three methods are available including the pushbutton on the right side plate, the thumb in back of the spool and under the thumb and the slide release alongside of the right side plate to allow immediate sliding of the thumb onto the spool. The pushbutton requires two hands to work (one to hold the rod and reel in the casting hand and the other to push in the button), while the other styles allow for one hand casting. All methods are good, with the pushbutton release style still favored in saltwater and all styles used in freshwater.

Similarly, wide spool models are more often used in saltwater for their greater line capacity with the standard and narrow spool models used in freshwater fishing.

The teardrop shape reels often have smaller spools and thus less line capacity than the standard round side plate reels and thus are important, based on the size of the fish you intend to catch.

Rods are also important with the rod action and power necessary for the lures being cast and fish caught. In addition, it is important to pick the right length. For saltwater bait casting 6½ to 7½ foot rods are best, for the long casts on open water are standard in the salt. For freshwater open lake fishing, the same rod length, albeit in a lighter power, would serve equally well. For fishing a little underhand flip cast to fire a lure under a dock or duck blind, a short rod in the 4½ to 5 foot range is better to prevent the lure from hitting the water on the cast.

All features are important and affect how you hold and use a reel while casting and retrieving. Buying the right one for your fishing prevents many problems from ever happening.

To make sure that a reel has the features that you want and that it will be comfortable for you to hold and cast, deal with a shop that has sample reels on rod handles for you to try and test.

2. Fill the reel spool with good, premium fresh line. You might favor Stren, Class, Trilene, Trimax, Ande, Maxima or a number of other lines for your casting reel, but the best for casting is undoubtedly monofilament. Each line and brand has unique properties in terms of stiffness, line

Baitcasting has long dominated the black bass scene.

strength, knot strength, abrasion resistance, but all have a good balance of basic properties necessary to good fishing line. You should choose a line based on your particular type of fishing.

For fishing with heavy line, say 20 pound or more test, on a standard freshwater style casting reel, pick a line that's limper than normal since a line of this pound test will not lay as well on the spool or cast as smoothly as will a limper line. Similarly, a very light line for those casting ultra light lures and fishing ultra light tackle, should go with a slightly stiffer line for the 4 to 6 pound test that is about as light as can be used on revolving spool reels.

Fill the reel completely. On some reels, a small engraved line close to the edge of the spool indicates this fill point. On others fill the reel to within about 1/8 inch, using light tension to make sure that the line is laid down properly.

If fishing freshwater, one way to save money is to refill reels by removing line that is no more than the equivalent of two cast lengths, knotting the old and new line with a barrel knot. For saltwater where a fish might run the drag for quite awhile, remove all the line and refill each time, using reel fill packs available from most line manufacturers, or bulk spools for greater economy.

3. Adjust the magnetic cast control. Magnetic cast controls on all reels run from a low number (usually 0 or 1) to a high number (usually 10 or 20). If new to casting, or if trying a new line, new rod or new lure, adjust this on the heavy side to prevent overruns. These work with a dial or linear gauge on the left side plate and are readily visible and adjustable.

4. Adjust the cast control knob. Some manufacturers might call this knob by different names, but it is the small knob on the right side plate that controls the pressure on the axis of the reel spool. Improperly adjusted, this can adversely affect casting, regardless of the effectiveness of the magnetic cast control.

To adjust, run the line through the rod guides and tie on the lure you will cast. Hold the rod horizontal. Then adjust this knob until the tension is such that the lure will barely pull line off the reel to reach the floor or ground when the reel is placed in free spool. At this point, the reel is adjusted properly. Too tight an adjustment can slow a cast and kill distance, while too loose an adjustment can cause backlashes and create spool play that will allow line to get under the spool flange.

Even with the reel properly adjusted, it's still possible to get into trouble unless the basics of casting are followed. Some professional tips here include:

• While magnetic cast control might seem to make thumbing of a reel to control spool speed and slow the cast useless, thumbing is still required for expert casting. Experienced casters will loosen the magnetic cast control as much as possible for maximum distance. As a result, get in the habit of placing the thumb in the left hand corner of the reel so that the thumb rides on the inside of the side plate just above the spool. That way, it is easy to roll the thumb slightly to place pressure on the spool to slow the cast, stop a lure from going into a brush or shore, and control accuracy.

• Hold the rod and reel properly when you cast by rotating your wrist to place the handles straight up in the air or pointed straight down at the ground (if you use a right-handed reel but cast with your left hand, or vice versa). This frees the wrist for full movement in casting.

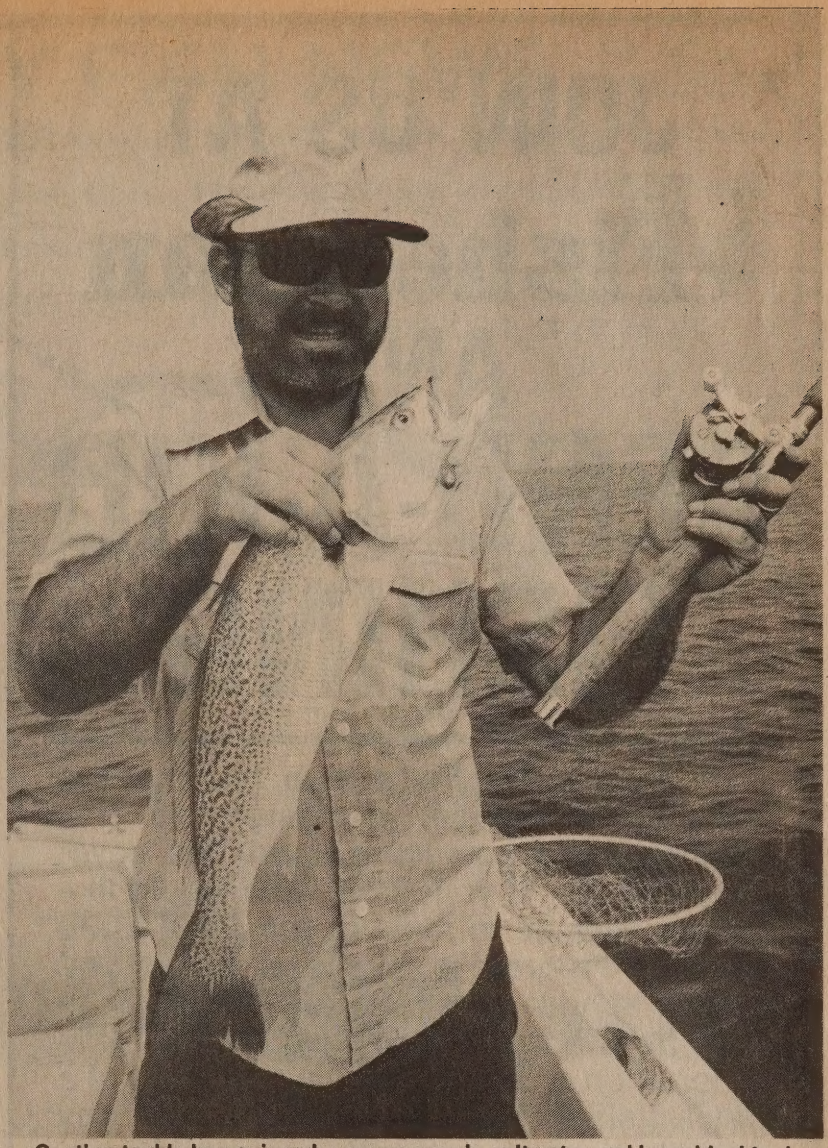
• Aim by holding the rod tip slightly up to point the tip at the target. For an overhand cast, use this aiming point to bring the rod back, then immediately forward following through by pointing the rod at the target after you release the lures.

• Release the lure properly. Most books and articles have in the past described this incorrectly, by suggesting that you hold your thumb on the reel spool as the rod goes back and again as it comes forward until well in front of you at which time the lure is released. If following this exactly, you will drive the lure into the ground or water in front of you, since the release of the lure comes too late.

Releasing a lure with a casting outfit requires that you begin a controlled release almost as soon as you bring the rod forward, finally releasing the lure with the rod slightly in front of a vertical position, at which point there will be about 3 feet of line out from the tip of the rod. A good check on this is to watch the arc of the line as the lure goes out. A high arc of line, reminiscent of McDonald's arches, means that the line has been released too early. If the lure slams into the water, it was released too late. Strive for a release between these two extremes.

• Use an underhand cast to get a

(Continued on next page.)



Casting tackle has enjoyed a resurgence in saltwater and is an ideal tool for inshore species like weakfish or sea trout.

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Yes, I would like to "Send-A-Kid Fishing" this summer. Enclosed is a donation in the amount of $_____

Name _____

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lure in a low trajectory under brush, tree limbs and docks. This cast, more and more frequently used by the bass pros, involves a short rod held down almost at a vertical position and cast with a tight rotating wrist motion that spins the lure in a circle and fires it out almost at the water's surface to get under obstructions. The rotation motion "loads" the rod to make the cast and send the lure on its way.

• Learn to use the wind. Wind is an almost constant problem for fishermen casting and especially so for bait casting tackle and the problem of backlashes. Learn to judge wind when it comes from the side and to judge the sailing or travel of lures in the air under these conditions. That way you can make adjustments to the right or left of your real target to place the lure as close as possible to the fish, despite the wind blowing the lure off of the course cast.

Similarly, if making long casts with the wind at your back, learn to release the lure early so that the wind will carry the lure even further. Similarly, the wind will be less close to the water's surface so if casting into the wind, make low trajectory casts, fired hard into the wind, to minimize the wind's effect and to reach the target.

• Avoid side casts, if in a boat or on a crowded shore, as this can be extremely dangerous. There is little room in most boats and a side cast can endanger other fishermen. The problem is that if this cast becomes habit, even when fishing alone in a boat, it becomes unconscious to use it all the time and can injure others. Just don't use it.

• Practice as much as possible, unless fishing several days a week. Participants in other sports such as racket ball, golf and tennis practice and so should fishermen to get the maximum of their time on the water. Use plastic rings, the dog's water bowl, flower pots, shrubs and flowers and any other item you wish as targets in the backyard and practice on a regular basis. Top casters insist that this regular use of tackle and constant practice does make a difference out on the water as to how accurate you will be and how much time you will spend fishing vs. collecting lures from tree limbs.

What all this boils down to is to learn to use the tackle, know the tackle and not be afraid of casting tackle. Backlashes aren't the end of the world and we have all had them at varying times. But the secret in avoiding them or minimizing them is confidence in casting and the ability to use the tackle.

Editor's Note: For more information about casting tackle and fishing with casting tackle in both fresh and salt water, *The Angler's Guide to Bait Casting*, by C. Boyd Pfeiffer is an excellent book and is available autographed from: C. Boyd Pfeiffer, 14303 Robcaste Rd., Phoenix, MD 21131. Send $14 (includes shipping and handling) with checks made payable to C. Boyd Pfeiffer.

FEBRUARY FISH NEWS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

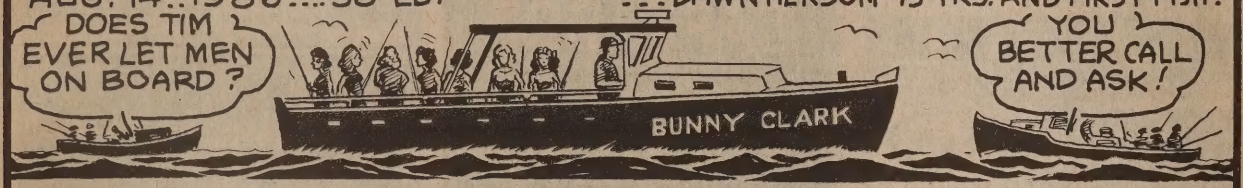
THE SOUTH JERSEY MARINA ANNOUNCES THEIR SUMMER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

SEVENTH ANNUAL SHARK TOURNAMENT JUNE 12,13,14 (ALTERNATE).
TENTH ANNUAL WHITE MARLIN OPEN JULY 8,9,10,11,12.
FIRST ANNUAL OCEAN OWNERS TOUR. JULY 23,24,25,26.
MANUFACTURERS MARLIN ROUND-UP. AUGUST 6,7,8,9.
MARLIN MARDI GRAS FISH FOR LIFE. AUGUST 22,23,24,25,26,27.
TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS. SEPTEMBER 11,12,13,14,15,16.

FOR INFORMATION WRITE OR CALL: SOUTH JERSEY TOURNAMENTS C/O SOUTH JERSEY MARINA, BOX 641, CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY 08204 (609) 884-2400.

BIG RECORD MAINE POLLOCK WERE CAUGHT THE LAST TWO SEASONS ABOARD CAPT. TIM TOWER'S PARTY BOAT *"BUNNY CLARK"* OUT OF PERKINS COVE AND WAS CERTAINLY A FAVORITE WITH THE LADIES. CAPT. TIM LISTS THE FOLLOWING IGFA WORLD RECORDS ON 50 LB. LINE TAKEN BY HIS PISCATORIAL LADY GUESTS:

SEPT. 7...1985.... 33 LB. POLLOCK ...CLAIRE B. FISHER
SEPT. 8..1985.... 35 LB. 2 OZ. " ...JOAN STACCONE
JULY. 24..1986.... 37 LB. 5 OZ. " ...GAIL MCLAUGHLIN - 14 YEARS OLD.
AUG. 14..1986.... 38 LB. " ...DAWN HERSOM - 15 YRS. AND FIRST FISH!



CAPT. TIM TOWER, BOX 837, OGUNQUIT, MAINE 03907 OR CALL BARNACLE BILLY'S, PERKINS COVE (207) 646-5575

BEST FISHING DAYS FOR FEBRUARY WHEN THE MOON IS BETWEEN NEW AND FULL ARE FEB. 1-13.

A FISHING SCHOOL FOR SALTWATER FISHERMEN, PRESENTED BY THE BABYLON TUNA CLUB, BOX 123, BABYLON, L.I. 11702 WILL BE 8 CONSECUTIVE WEEKLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT COURSES 8-10:30 PM AT THE BABYLON, L.I. AMERICAN LEGION HALL, 22 GROVE PLACE, WEST OFF DEER PARK AVE, ONE BLOCK SOUTH OF L.I.R.R.

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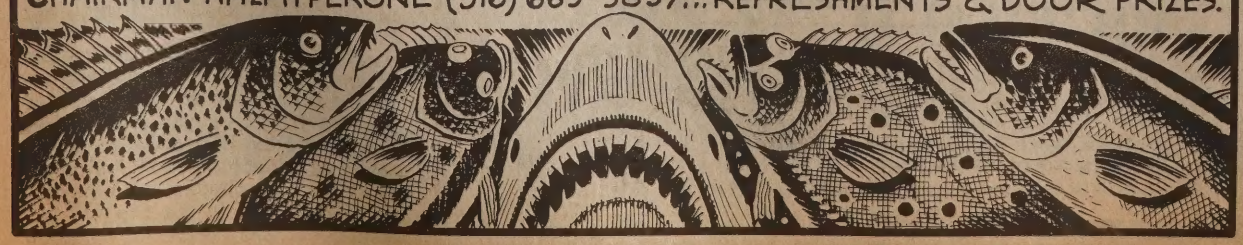
2 - FEB. 18..FLOUNDERS - BLACKFISH	6 - MAR. 18..SHARK FISHING
3 - FEB. 25. FLUKE - WEAKFISH	7 - MAR. 25. OFFSHORE GAMEFISH
4 - MAR. 4...BLUEFISHING	8 - APR. 1..TUNA FISHING

CHAIRMAN RALPH PERONE (516) 669-9837... REFRESHMENTS & DOOR PRIZES.



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East End REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

The eastern tip of the Island remained closed up tight through last week's cold and storms. At this point in time, spring still appears a long way off.

MONTAUK

All of this past week's activity took place out west, rather than out east, as a large contingent of Montauk captains homed in on the new National Sportmen's Show at Jacob Javits Conventiona Center. Captain Zac Grossman was there in the "cockpit" of his Mako Express. He kept showgoers entertained with his tuna fighting simulator. Captain Bob Rocchetta of **Rainbow Charters** on on the "big stage" sharing his expertise concerning striped bass fishing. Other skippers kept busy manning the displays of the Montauk Captains Association and Montauk Boatmen's Association.

South Shore REPORT

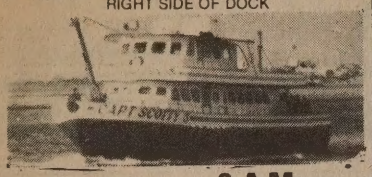
with Fred Golofaro

Cold, snow and ice thwarted the efforts of even the most die-hard anglers last week. Nonetheless, some of the more persistent managed to keep entertained with white perch (when they found open water), trout and cod. While cod trips have been few in recent weeks, several good catches have come to our attention. Topping off the fishing news was the landing of a 63 pound cod aboard the Captree open boat **Captain Scotty** on Thursday. More on this later.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Larry Dallaire at **L&M Marineland** in East Moriches said that last week's run of cold weather left the Moriches area locked in an icy grip. As a result, it continues to be a flounderless winter. Most anglers have set their hopes for a showing of fish near the end of February if the weather cooperates. In past years the Quogue

CAPT. SCOTTY 3
RIGHT SIDE OF DOCK



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Canal traditionally produces the first decent catches of flatties during the last week of that month.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

From Al Colban at **J&R Sports Center** in Oakdale came word of continued good trout fishing in Bubbles and Rattles. One youngster stopped by on the weekend to show a pair of trout in the 1½ lb. class. Some pretty good catches of perch in the Connetquot when it is free of ice. An occasional flounder still being picked from the river as well. Night crawlers getting the attention of both these species. Tommycod have about faded from the scene. Al added that he heard from a couple of customers that there had been some pretty fair catches of cod taken on Captree open boats over the course of the past week.

Al Flexor relayed word that Al Rodriguez clicked with a 14 inch rainbow trout in Bubbles Falls. Al found nothing but small trout at Bubbles and Rattles, but did manage browns of 12 and 13½ inches from the Carman's River.

Carl and Linda Miller of **Smokey's**

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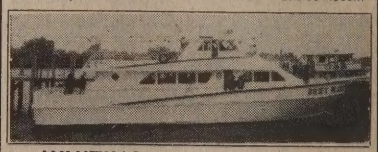

WHITING!

LING!

MACKEREL!

6:30 AM DAILY

CAPT. AL COLEY • PIER 1 • (718) 769-9815

Tackle Shop in Bay Shore and **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** were camped at the recently concluded National Sportsmen's Show. It wa nice to see Linda recovering well from a recent auto accident and we wish her 100 percent by the time fishi g season rolls around.

The big news this week, and of the winter for that matter, concerns the 63 lb. 2 oz. cod taken aboard Capt. George Tweedy's Captree open boat **Captain Scotty 3** on Thursday. On the rod was George's son Wayne. The soaker was taken among a catch of 75 cod by just twelve fares. According to the skipper, a lot of 20 to 25 lb. cod were included in the catch. On Saturday, George spoke of maybe a couple of dozen cod taken by fares, while Sunday, after a slow start in the morning, wound up producing betweeen 35 and 40 cod. On Sunday's trip, it was another Tweedy that showed the way. This time, the eldest Tweedy, George Sr. put away a 45 lb. cod. A reminder from George that the boat's special cod derby is now at the $650 mark. In addition to the cod, a few big blackfish still find their way into the catches. Those that are taken range between 6 and 10 lbs.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the Captree open boat **Speedy VIII** spoke of a pretty decent day on Sunday. While the numbers were not great the quality of the fish taken was impressive. According to Speedy, the fish ranged from 20 to 35 lbs. He figured 30 cod were taken during the day.

Over at **Augie's Tackle Shop** in Babylon, Tom Healy spoke of some white perch around the Babylon tidal creeks whenever ice permits. Quite a few trout being taken in the Connectquot River but most have been small. Small Mr. Twister jigs working best on the perch. A reminder that the

Babylon Tuna Club Fishing School will commence on February 11th at 7:30 PM. It's being held at the American Legion Hall in Babylon. For more information, call Ralph Perrone at 669-9837.

For those who like to plan ahead, you might want to mark the dates of March 7th and 8th on your calendar. Shane's Marine of Babylon will be hosting a Seminar featuring wreck expert John Raguso, Newsday fishing columnist, Nick Karas and WOR-radio meteorologist Bill Korbell. In addition, leading manufacturers of electronics will be available to answer your questions. For more information contact Ms. Cara Cruz at (516) 431-0399.

No news on the fishing front from Frank Pristera at **Edelman's** in Farmingdale. The Edelman's crew instead kept busy displaying their wares at the National Sportsman's Show in New York City. Frank reminded customers to stay tuned for the upcoming opening of the new Centereach store.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

Ocean fishing this week has been passable to good on the days that the party boats could get out, what with the weather and sea conditions being uncertain from day to day. However,

Keith Cunningham with blues of 15 and 19½ lbs. caught on plugs in Huntington Harbor on 8-30-86. Photo courtesy of Four Winds Bait and Tackle in Huntington.

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Captain George Richford and mate Mike Mulholland with a 9 lb. fluke decked aboard the Sheepshead Bay boat, "Pastime II."

the wrecks are still holding fair numbers of cod and there do not appear to be any doggies around. To the west, the Sheepshead boats that are sailing are having good catches of blackfish, ling and whiting.

WEST END BAYS/ JONES INLET

We learned from Capt. Chris Specht, co-skipper of the **Starstream II** that he got out three days during this past week with codfish scores on Thursday being 35 fish, nine on Saturday and 28 on Sunday, all wreck fish. Customers saw only one dogfish the whole day, said Chris. Numbers of fish caught per day ranged from 18 to 40 a trip and the fish are spread out over just about all the wrecks.

Right across Woodcleft Canal, the **Super Spray II** had an excellent day of codding, said Capt. Dick Hall. Eight cod was the score for Fred Bodinsky, while Dave Smith of Baldwin also had eight. Fish ran from rats up to 40 lbs. Sunday saw a couple of big fish caught but there were no numbers to speak of.

A call from Capt. Mike Danon of the **Capt. Lou Fleet** advised that by the time you are reading this report he will be on his way south to pick up the new **Capt. Lou VI**. The boat will then after a brief familiarization run, be brought back to Freeport in preparation for the spring flounder season. Mike says he hopes to see you on board.

In nearby Point Lookout Capt. Butch substituting temporarily for Captain Al Lindroth on the party boat **Captain Al** while the skipper is on vacation advised that the weekend was a little on the slow side due to the unfriendly weather and sea conditions. Butch noted the best day of the week was Thursday with 75 cod caught by fares. Frank Noto managed 10 cod. Ach Ronaldi grabbed the pool with a 42 lber. Approximately 20 cod were caught on Saturday and the same on Sunday, when Roosevelt Rogers took the pool with a 36 lber. This has all been wreck fishing and Butch also advises no dogs around. Fish ran 6 to 42 lbs. for the week.

NEW YORK BIGHT

Charlie at **Mike's Tackle** said the fishing was not too bad this week on blacks, ling and whiting. On the blackfish scene Johnny Tog hoisted 13 blackfish from 4 to 8 pounds Thursday fishing on the **Pilot II** at a special secret wreck 2½ hours steaming time from the bay. On that same trip, Ken Dachs bagged 18 blacks to 11 lbs. 3 oz. The **Helen H** and **Betty W IV** enjoyed solid catches of whiting and even more so, ling on the weekend working Scotland and Ambrose.

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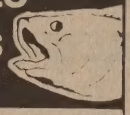

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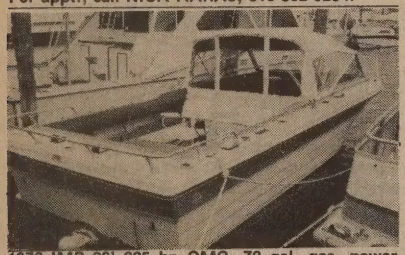

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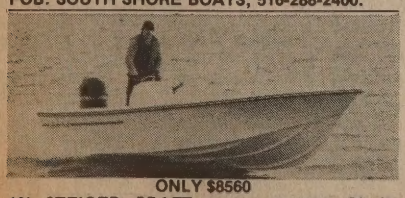

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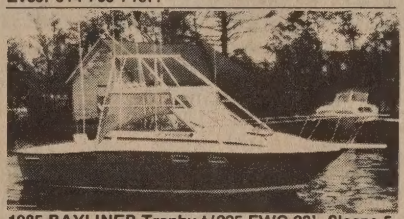

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BERTRAM 28 Flybridge, twin 1986 340 hp Mercruisers, FWC. Radar arch, Furuno 24 mi. radar, 217 gal. fuel capacity, hydraulic steering, Loran, VHF, CB, water temp gauge, paper machine, mini synch. Bimini top, gin pole, trim tabs, outriggers. Extra props. Excl. cond. $55,000. After 6PM: 516-665-5723.

WHALER OUTRAGE 21', twin 1979 Evn. 140s. Hydraulic steering, 65 gal. fuel. EZ Load trailer. New boat; must sell. Best Offer. Days: 914-967-6285. Eves: 914-967-4855.

1981 25' MAKO center console, 235 hp Evinrude +25 hp Evinrude Aux., 120 gal. capacity. 8 rod holders, Lee outriggers, 1 Penn downrigger. Dytek water temp, Lowrance, white line LRG 1510B. Raynav 750 MK II Loran, VHF, CB. Digital depth recorder, Ritchie compass, SW washdown. Full cushions, spray hood, livewell & aerator. 2 bilge pumps, 2 batt. w/switch, power tilt, thru-hull transducer. $19,500. After 6PM or leave message on machine: 516-728-8202.

1979 GRADY WHITE Sprint 17' 70 hp Evinrude. Trailer & full canvas. $3750. 718-225-4043.

OUTBOARD WANTED: 10-25 hp. Short shaft. Good cond. Reasonable price. Eves: 516-692-8583.

28' TOPAZ '82 twin Volvo diesels. Tower w/radar & full encl. Full electronics. This boat is fully equip & ready for any type of fishing—inshore or canyon. Fast & very economical. X-tras too numerous to list. Mint cond. $65,000. 718-253-9162.

24' PRIVATEER. Port of Egypt, Southold, 516-765-2445.

BLACKFIN 86 32' SF, twin 350 Crusaders, FWC, heat & a/c, instant hot water, teak coverboards aft, full teak pulpit w/SS rails, free drop windlass. Full teak swim platform, Pompanette SF 130 fight chair. Rupp outriggers, raw/fresh washdown. Bimini w/full enclosure. Northstar 800X Loran, Furuno FCV 501, digital DF, Icom VHF. Loaded for fish or cruise. Mint. Low hrs. Lists over $150,000. Best offer. 516-599-6543/867-4660.

GRADY WHITE 1984, 226 Seafarer, 22' 6" walkaround cuddy cabin. Loaded. 1984 235 hp Johnson, SS Prop, 1984 9.9 Johnson kicker. Cox 4000 tandem axle trailer w/brakes. $26,900. 1-617-362-2243.

17' 1985 Fiberglass center console, 1985 70 hp O/B. Cushions, Bimini top, 2 gas tanks. Excl. cond. $5900. 516-599-4524.

1985 GRADY WHITE 19' Tournament, 1985 175 Johnson PTT/VRO. 40 MPH+, SW washdown, 6 rod holders, outriggers. Cybernet VHF, Humminbird LCD3000 recorder. Swim platform, Mills full custom canvas. Full instrumentation. Absolutely mint. Bob Cooper, Days: 212-397-6500. Eves: 212-686-0295.

SEA CRAFT 1973 23' center console, 1984 Evinrude 235. Electronics. Better than a Mako. Ask: $12,900. 516-536-8875.

SHAMROCK 26' 1984 cuddy cabin, 250 hp FWC I/B. Low hrs. V-bunks, cushions. Encl. head. Large fiksh wells. Navy top, side curtains. Full cockpit cover. Custom teak hand rails, cockpit. VHF radio, DF, Loran, SS bowrails, trim tabs. Dual batt. w/SW. Large dual fuel filters & intake water filter. Easy access oil change. 4 SS pole holders, outriggers. Teak rod holders. Full CG equip. Very stable; fast; economical. Bought new 6/85. Original owner. Top mint cond. $25,750 or best offer. 718-934-2684.

SPORTCRAFT 1981 27', flybridge, 260 hp I/B. Outriggers, full canvas. More. Used freshwater. Ask: $25,000. 315-652-6996.

Continued On Next Page

26' BLUE FIN 1977, twin 454s 12' beam, 1/2 tower encl. Electronics, outriggers. Lee fish chair. $16,500 Firm. 516-722-3575.

1983 23' ROBALO center console, 200 Merc, VHF, T-top, D/F & trailer. $14,995. 516-288-2400.

25' MAKO 1978 center console. Loran, depth finder, paper recorder, CB, VHF, flood light, 18' outriggers. Compl. canvas cover. Installed new 1986: twin 150 hp O/Bs, hydraulic steering, wiring & 4, 95 amp batts., gauges & controls. 516-878-1180.

BOATING EQUIP.

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

RADAR, Loran, autopilots, VHF, SSB, fish recorders. Sales & service most major brands. Custom installations. MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS INC., 377 Woodcleft Av., Freeport, NY; 516-623-4421.

CUSTOM MARINE WOODWORK. No job too small: tackle lockers, instrument enclosures, consoles, bow pulpits, etc. Interior & exterior repairs & restorations. CUSTOM MARINE CARPENTRY, 516-623-1639.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single & Tandem Axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-05 B'Way, Woodside, NY. 718-426-7039.

TOWERS, Radar Arches, stands, rocket launchers. Custom canvas work. Made to order. 516-399-0661

ONE Set of 24X29 4-blade Nibrow props cup 1¾ shaft. Like new. 516-352-6287.

AIREX ELECTRONICS "Going out of Business" sale! All electronics & marine supplies below cost. Everything must go. We're at 106 Woodcleft Ave., Freeport, NY; 516-623-8942.

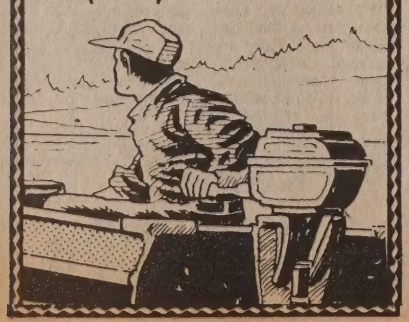
BOAT TRAILERS: EZ loader. All sizes in stock. Immediate del. Priced right. Trailer hitches installed. SEAHORSE TRAILER* Glen Head, NY. 516-676-5313.

FISHING TACKLE

REELS: Most new in box. Penn: 716Z-$25; 650SS-$45; 930-$44; 4/0-$40; 6/0-$50. Garcia XLI Ultra-Mag-$60; Cardinal 155 Sweeden-$36. Daiwa 50H-$30. Shimano TLD-5-$70. Gary: 736-0912.

LATE! LATE! LATE! It's not too late. EDELMAN'S. See Ad page 2.

DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES & INFO
(516) 725-4200



FOR SALE: Stand-Up tuna rod, 6' custom built graphite rated for 50-100 lb. line. Fuji high frame guides, Hypalon grips, Aftco hooded reel seat. Minimal use. Replacement cost-$175. Will sell for $125. Can be seen at Fisherman Office, Mystic, Ct. 203-572-0564.

MUSTAD HOOKS
and other fine tackle at sensible prices. Free catalog. TERMINAL TACKLE CO., Box 427, Kings Park, NY 11754

2 PENN International 50s & 2 30s, 4 6/0s & 4, 4/0s. All w/matching custom rods, 6 gaffs, 2 fly, VHF & over $1000 in lures. Plus extras. All for $2150. 516-472-2469.

CATCH MORE FISH—with superior designed saltwater rigs. Send for free catalog now! HUDSON TACKLE, Dept. I, P.O. Box 437, Kearny, NJ 07032.

DEADLY FLOUNDER RIGS
Tangle-free, tandem tied w/special stand-off knot. Used by sharpies. Sproat hooks for more hook-ups. 3/$3.75, incl. p/h. BILL SMITH, 158 Vermont Ave., Bay Shore, NY 11706.

BEACH BUGGIES

FOR SALE: 1975 Inter. Scout II, 4WD, 345V8, auto, A/C. Needs alternator. $650. 516-546-7243.

REAL ESTATE

ATTENTION Hunting/Fishing Clubs: Lease or sale of hunting & fishing rights. Truly beautiful country. 406-587-3829.

HUGE Brown trout, smallmouth bass. Walk to Pepacton Reservoir, renowned trout streams local. Comfortable farmhouse, sleeps 4. Fully equip. Rent week, day, weekend. Very reasonable rates. Reserve now: 516-431-8021.

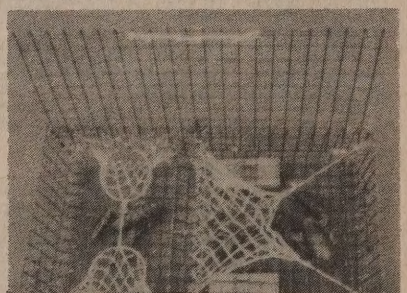
FOR RENT OR SALE—Upper Captiva Isl., FL. Safety Harbor Club waterfront home on Gulf of Mexico. Fully equip, 3Br, 2Bth, air cond. doctor's home w/hot Jacuzzi tub on deck. Sleeps 8. Swim pool, tennis, birds, shelling, fishing, dolphins & colorful quietude. By wk or month: 212-288-2297.

FOR SALE: East Hampton Contemporary in lovely Old Orchard Lane: 3BR, 2Bth, fpl, A/C, garage-studio. Full basement, 20'x40' pool, large decks, Room for tennis court on 1.5 wooded acres. Owner: 212-288-2297.

MONTAUK: Beautiful Cottages for rent on the cliffs overlooking Ft. Pond Bay. In-between Harbor & town. Daily, weekly. 516-668-2071.

RENT Florida Keys Condo. Duck Key: 2BR, 2Bth. Fully equip. Week or month. Bus: 516-264-2202. Home: 516-422-3492.

MISCELLANEOUS



NORTH SHORE TRAP CO., St. James, NY. 516-584-6870. Vinyl coated lobster, crab, eel traps and all lobstering equipment.

PENSION PLANS: Get the right one and fish for the rest of your life. THE RETIREMENT PLAN CO. OF L.I., 212-406-9888.

FULLY LICENSED CAPTAIN—Water deliveries, boat/navigation instruction; charters & trips. 516-795-4498.

LICENSE PLATE FRAME says it for you—"I'd Rather Be Fishing." Non-rusting, hi-impact, black polystyrene w/raised white letters. 1-$4.95; 2-$8.95 + $1 p/h. Send ck. or M.O. to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566. Satisfaction guaranteed.

FISH IDENTIFICATION CHART: Show 42 saltwater species native to our North Atlantic coast. Lithographed in beautiful lifelike color on heavy coated stock. Measures 30"X48". Suitable for framing. Satisfaction guaranteed. Send ck or M.O. for $13.95 +$1.75 for p/h to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566.

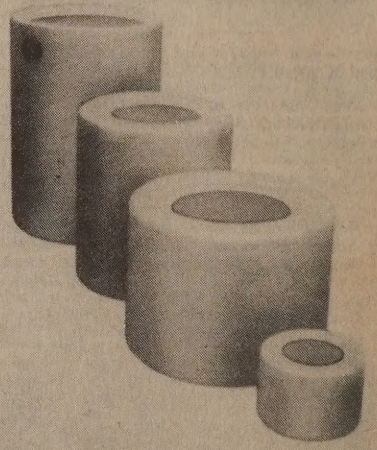
WANTED: Serious offshore fishing club. Looking for 5th serious member. Boat moored in Moriches, LI. After 6PM: 914-878-9377. Ask for David.

INSURANCE: Boat, home, auto. Low rates. All Risk. ROYAL BROKERAGE, Hauppauge, Jericho, W. Islip. 516-435-1666.

WINTER STORAGE & '87 Summer Dockage avail. in Seaford. COMPASS ROSE BOATWORKS, 516-783-3220.

BAIT SUPPLIER Needed for Howard Beach open boat. CAPT. MIKE, 718-848-9161.

MATE WANTED—Freeport party boat. Experienced preferred. Must be good with people. 516-RO 6-5716.



LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure, send $.25 p/h. THE CADDY CO., 57 Bayonne Av, Dept. E, Central Islip, NY 11722; 516-234-0144.

STUART, Florida: sport fishing aboard the Gandalf. New J.C. boat; diesel; fast. 1/2 day; full day; 3-day special. Full tournament tackle. Live bait; trolling; jigging; dowriggers. Excl. bottom fishing. Please call for bookings. Some days open. CAPT. ERNIE, 305-283-6751 or NY 718-457-6666.

FOR SALE: 39 rolls of Kodak Super 8 movie film. ASA 40 w/Sound. Film is current & ready to shoot at $2.75 per roll. Contact Fisherman office: 203-572-0564. Can ship UPS.

WANTED: Captain & Mate. Freeport-Montauk. FT/PT. 40' Sportfisherman. Send handwritten work experience, personal background & salary requirements to: N.C. INC., 88-31 Eldert Lane, Woodhaven, NY 11421.

BOATS Professionally Winterized. Shrink Wrap Cover. Outdrive winter service. MINDICH Mobile Marine Services Inc., 581-4246.

SHRINK WRAP. Any size, anywhere. Fiberglass repair, painting, fabrication, reinforcement, sand blasting, gel coating. Full shop services, mobil services. Free estimates. 582-4417; 669-0555.

BOAT CLEANING: Washing, waxing, interior & exterior cleaning. All types of cleaning service. Weekly, monthly, seasonal rates. Special spring open-up service. Call for free estimates. LIKE NEW BOAT CLEANING, Richie: 516-826-3699.

SAND BLAST Boat Bottoms: Fiberglass, wood, steel. No job too big or too small. 516-226-2041.

P/T Early morning newspaper delivery. $10 per hr. Hicksville/Plainview area. Must have reliable car. 516-579-4315.

HOUSE PAINTING: Interior & Exterior by Jack "The Painter" Murray. Let us paint while you fish. 516-273-0960.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	12:40	1:00	1:35	1:55	1:30	1:45	2:35	3:05	4:50	5:30	4:15	4:50	12:40	1:00	2/5
FRI.	1:30	1:55	2:35	2:55	2:20	2:40	3:35	4:10	5:55	6:30	5:15	5:45	1:35	2:00	2/6
SAT.	2:25	2:55	3:35	3:55	3:15	3:40	4:35	5:10	6:55	7:30	6:10	6:45	2:35	3:00	2/7
SUN.	3:25	4:00	4:35	4:55	4:15	4:50	5:30	6:05	7:55	8:25	7:10	7:40	3:30	3:55	2/8
MON.	4:25	5:00	5:30	5:50	5:15	5:45	6:15	6:55	8:45	9:15	8:00	8:30	4:25	4:50	2/9
TUES.	5:20	5:50	6:20	6:35	6:05	6:35	7:00	7:35	9:35	10:00	8:45	9:15	5:20	5:35	2/10
WED.	6:05	6:35	7:00	7:15	6:50	7:20	7:40	8:10	10:15	10:40	9:30	9:55	6:00	6:20	2/11
THURS.	6:45	7:10	7:40	7:55	7:30	7:55	8:15	8:50	10:45	11:10	10:10	10:35	6:40	7:00	2/12

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 2/5	7:09	5:20
FRI. 2/6	7:08	5:21
SAT. 2/7	7:06	5:22
SUN. 2/8	7:05	5:23
MON. 2/9	7:04	5:24
TUE. 2/10	7:03	5:25
WED. 2/11	7:02	5:26

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 2/5	10:35AM	12:25AM
FRI. 2/6	11:05AM	1:30AM
SAT. 2/7	11:40AM	2:35AM
SUN. 2/8	12:20PM	3:35AM
MON. 2/9	1:10PM	4:30AM
TUE. 2/10	2:05PM	5:20AM
WED. 2/11	3:05PM	6:00AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
2/28	2/5	2/13	2/21

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	10:40	**4:30**	11:05	**4:55**
Fri.	11:25	**5:15**	11:55	**5:35**
Sat.	—	**5:55**	12:05	**6:20**
Sun.	12:35	**6:45**	12:55	**7:10**
Mon.	1:25	**7:30**	1:40	**7:55**
Tues.	2:05	**8:20**	2:30	**8:45**
Wed.	3:00	**9:05**	3:15	**9:30**
Thurs.	3:45	**9:50**	4:00	**10:15**

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Richard Reina • William A. Muller

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By William A. Muller & Richard Reina

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- ☐ Seabass
- ☐ Scup
- ☐ Flounder
- ☐ Fluke
- ☐ Bluefish
- ☐ Blackfish
- ☐ Ling
- ☐ Whiting
- ☐ Mackerel
- ☐ Halibut
- ☐ Weakfish
- ☐ Striped Bass
- ☐ Haddock

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